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**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**WARE, MASSACHUSETTS**



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HISTORY

WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

A VIEW OF WARE VILLAGE,  
MASSACHUSETTS

*Taken from Prospect Hill near the North-  
ampton Road. Copyright entered in 1837.*

CAMBRIDGE  
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1914

**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**WARE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**BY**  
**ARTHUR CHASE**

**CAMBRIDGE**  
**THE UNIVERSITY PRESS**  
**1911**



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By ARTHUR CHASE

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, U.S.A.

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TO  
THE PEOPLE OF WARE  
AMONG WHOM I HAVE DWELT FOR SIXTEEN YEARS  
AS IN A MANOUR OF PEACE



## P R E F A C E

IN the preparation of this history the official sources have been consulted, and documents are quoted *verbatim et literatim*. The State Archives, the Registries of Deeds, the Probate offices, and the records of the various Courts, have each given their quota of information concerning the early affairs of the town, as have also the Proprietor's Records of the Elbow Tract, and our local Town, Parish and Church records.

Without the invaluable material embodied in the Historical Address of the Hon. William Hyde in 1847, and the equally important investigations published by Mr. Edward H. Gilbert in 1891 in his "Early Grants," it would not have been possible for the present writer to have covered the ground in the time at his command. Being started on the right track by these writers, it has been possible to work intelligently and with little uncertainty. At the same time, the whole ground has been gone over from the beginning, for the writer's own satisfaction, and in order to put what was already clearly enough stated into a larger setting. A great number of minor records, sermons, addresses, and publications of various sorts have been examined, and thanks are due to all who have placed such materials at the disposal of the writer. The material brought to light suggests the probability that much more, both of value and of interest, is still in existence, and might be collected if there were a Historical Society in the town. As for the various Registries and Court Records, they are a mine of wealth almost inexhaustible.

It is not necessary to apologize for the omission of some matters frequently embodied in town histories. The limitations of space make it necessary to set bounds, and on doubtful topics the writer has happily found himself in accord with the judgment of the Committee.

That this book is free from errors is not to be expected. Inerrancy would place it in a class by itself. But every effort has been made to get at the fact. Traditions, always uncertain, have not been accepted without careful scrutiny, and many have been rejected as incompatible with known facts. It is to be hoped that the classic error regarding the Narragansett Company, so widely copied in early sketches of the town history, may be finally buried.

There has been no attempt at a uniform spelling of proper names, because no such uniformity ever existed.

The book will have served its purpose if it succeeds in stimulating an interest in the past, and in awakening a pride in the best achievements of the present, built upon solid foundations.

ARTHUR CHASE.

WARE, MASSACHUSETTS,  
May 22, 1911



## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

At the annual meeting in March, 1909, the town appointed a committee to arrange for an appropriate celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation.

The suggestion was made at that time that the occasion was suitable for the publication of a history of the town. Up to this time the only published matter of such a nature was Hon. William Hyde's "Historical Address," delivered at the dedication of the old town hall in 1847, and Col. E. H. Gilbert's painstaking monograph on the "Early Grants and Incorporation of the Town of Ware," printed in 1891. The necessarily limited scope of these works left open a wide field for the historian with the additional sources of information now available.

The committee was desirous of entrusting the preparation of the history to a resident of the town if possible. They regard themselves as fortunate in having enlisted the interest of Rev. Arthur Chase, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, to whose hands the work was committed. His historical insight, untiring search for original material, and literary ability have combined to produce a history which we believe will stand as authoritative and which redounds not only to his own credit, but to that of the town.

HENRY K. HYDE, <i>Chairman</i> ,	}	<i>Committee</i>
EDWARD P. MORSE, <i>Secretary</i> ,		
FREDERICK D. GILMORE, <i>Treasurer</i> ,		
J. H. GRENVILLE GILBERT,		
JAMES E. CLARK,		



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## HISTORY OF WARE



# HISTORY OF WARE

## I

### TOPOGRAPHY

THE town of Ware, Massachusetts, lies in the south-east corner of Hampshire County. It is bounded on the north by Enfield and Hardwick, on the east by that section of Hardwick formerly known as the Gore, and by West Brookfield. New Braintree just touches Ware line where the four towns of Hardwick, New Braintree, West Brookfield and Ware come together. Warren borders Ware a few rods on the east and south, covering the south-east corner at the top of Coy's Hill. Southerly the town borders on Palmer, and on the west the Swift River separates it from Belchertown.

The town consists of a series of valleys running north and south with ridges between. The Ware River Valley is on the east side, with Coy's Hill rising from it easterly of the southern portion.

Muddy Brook, flowing out of Hardwick Pond, makes the next valley westward. Through the centre of the town runs Flat Brook, dividing it into two nearly equal parts, while farther to the west is the Beaver Brook Valley. Again low meadow-lands border on the Swift River at the extreme west.

In the north-east corner, between Ware River and Muddy Brook, the land rises to a height of 1000 feet on the southern slopes of McDougal Mountain, and attains the same altitude on the top of Coy's Hill east of the river in the south-east corner. Between Muddy Brook and Flat Brook the land reaches a height of 600 feet, and was formerly known as Bond's Hill. Between Flat Brook and Muddy Brook is the Brimstone Hill range, 850 feet high in the north and 500 feet in the south of the town. West of Beaver Brook is the Swift River Hill, which attains a height of 800 feet.

There are no natural ponds within the town limits. Many artificial ones, however, have been made by dams built in the brooks for the creation of power to run a multitude of small mills. Snow's Pond on Muddy Brook, the pond on Beaver Brook at Pepper's Mills, and Harwood's Pond on Flat Brook are practically all that exist today. The largest pond of the past, and undoubtedly the earliest, was that known as Beaver Lake. The brook was dammed at a point near the Club House soon after the settlement of the town. An important pond industrially was the one on Flat Brook at Ware Centre.

Besides the more important water-courses, several others are mentioned in ancient deeds. Penny Brook flows into Beaver Brook just before the latter enters Ware River. Rattlesnake Brook flows down from Rattlesnake Hill into Ware River from the east about a mile north of the village.

#### THE NAME OF THE TOWN

The town takes its name from the river that crosses its territory. The name of the latter is said by those familiar with Indian lore to be a translation of the name *Nenameseck*, given to it in primitive times by the aborigines. This word *Nenameseck* or *Nenamesick* (for it has a variety of spellings) means "fishing basket" or "fishing weir," pronounced *ware*. The natives applied the name to the places where the weirs were built, while the English used it as the name of the stream. These weirs were set at the foot of the falls, and were employed for capturing the salmon with which the river once abounded. During the season while the salmon were running the Indians congregated at certain points along the stream, building temporary camps, and caught the fish both while ascending and descending. The fish while descending were taken in the traps. The weirs were rough walls of stone which formed a substructure for stakes and brush, reaching out from either bank and slightly down stream until they nearly met, and the large coarsely-woven basket was placed at the opening. One famous fishing-spot was at the falls of the river where the mills now stand. The Indians would come from the old Indian village at Brook-



field by the trail that became later the Bay Path. Their camp was probably just above the river on the east bank. It is said that numerous relics have been found between the river and the Boston and Maine freight-house.

Another Indian trail followed the route of the Boston Post Road, crossing Colonel's Mountain from Warren, and fording the river at the ancient ford-way near the Lamberton place — now owned by George F. Brown. Indian relics found north of the road on this farm indicate a camp, and a near-by fishing place. It is said that there is no evidence of any permanent Indian village within our territory. Such villages were situated in places like Brookfield, where the rich meadows supplied the necessary corn-lands. Tradition has it that a left-over family of Indians lived at the foot of Colonel's Mountain, on the east side near the double spring, and that an old Indian known as Big Panther used to come back every year and pitch his wigwam for a month in October near the spring. A big rock on the top of Colonel's Mountain is said to be the one on which signal fires were built in ancient days. Stray Indians doubtless visited the falls of Ware River for many years after the settlers came in 1729. One was known locally as "Hole-in-the-Rock" from the fact that once in former years he was surprised by a hostile party of red men, and escaped them by hiding in a "pot-hole" among the rocks below the falls.

#### EARLY POLITICAL SITUATION

It should be noted that prior to the year 1742, at which date Ware River Precinct came into existence, the territory of Ware was part of a section of Hampshire County generally known as the Elbow Tract, or The Elbows.

This tract comprised the lands of the present towns of Palmer and Ware, and received its name at an early date from the bends or "elbows" made by the Quabog, and the Ware or Nenameseck rivers which unite to form the Chicopee. The earliest date of the use of the name "The Elbows" is found in a petition to the General Court in 1731. It is there referred to as "A tract of land called The Elbows,

lying between Hadley and Brookfield." In the report of the Committee of the General Court, of June 21, 1733,<sup>1</sup> the place is called "The Elbow Tract," and as the report of the Committee was accepted by the Court, this became its legal name.

There were other names of a more or less local nature which should receive mention here. It was at first merely "A tract of unappropriated Land of this Province lying between Brookfield and the Equivalent Land."

A deed of 1729, found in the Hampshire County records, calls the place New Marlborough. "James Mackilwean of New Marlborough in the County of Hampshire" etc., and in 1733 Ellinor Mackilwean quitclaims her dower and thirds "to all the lands and premises . . . in New Marlborough, which New Marlborough is now called and named Kingstown in the County of Hampshire." In the same year, 1733, Mackilwean describes himself as "of Kingsfield so called, formerly a place known as the Elbows."

About 1741-42 *Kingsfield* was modified to Kingston, and the latter title was quite generally used until another town in Massachusetts was legally endowed with that name.

Another designation still was for a time fastened upon the northern portion of the tract. In 1739 "Samuel Marsh of a place called Muddy Brook" sells to Jeremiah Anderson a tract on the west side of the Ware River and adjoining thereto. Also to Thomas Dunsmore of Ware River land on the west side of Ware River, the bounds of which "begin on Ware River over against an Island called Quabbin, In Brookfield line." In 1741 "Jonathan Rood of a place called Muddy Brook, between Hardwick and the Elbows" transfers to Paul Thurston of Rutland 20 acres "in Muddy Brook aforesaid, lying at the S. W. corner of the 206 acres set out to me as my share in the original grant of s<sup>d</sup> Muddy Brook land, granted to Thomas Marsh and others." It was bounded on the west by Esq. Read's 10,000 acres, and "south by the Elbows or Kingston so called." In the same year Jonathan Hunt of Northampton sells to the same Paul Thurston 186 acres of "land at a place called Muddy Brook between Kingston and Hardwick."

<sup>1</sup> See p. 38.



Thus we see that the entire Marsh Tract, from the river to the Manour, was known by the name of *Muddy Brook*. That the name did not survive is due to the fact that this tract became part of the newly formed Precinct of Ware River in the following year, 1742.

Every one of the early grants within our boundaries was made before the setting off of Ware River Precinct, so that all our historic beginnings are bound up with the Elbows.

### QUABBIN ISLAND

This is a smooth, level island of some three acres lying in Ware River near where the four towns of Hardwick, New Braintree, West Brookfield and Ware come together. The island was anciently of importance in determining boundary lines, not only of towns, but of private estates. In old deeds farms are described as beginning at a tree or at a heap of stones "Over against an island in the Ware River called Quabbin." The Indian word "Quabbin" is said to signify "green," a most appropriate designation. The name as applied to this island has been lost locally, and the restoration is certainly worth while. The boundary stone between Ware and Hardwick stands on Quabbin. The island was part of Sylvester Bowen's farm, and lies just below the log bridge which Bowen built across the river.

### MILL-SITES

Saw and grist mills were established at the falls on Ware River soon after 1729 by Jabez Omstead. These are believed to have been the earliest mills within Ware territory.<sup>1</sup>

An iron furnace, in which the smelting was done with charcoal, was built on the west bank of the river near the Otis Company's dam in the first quarter of the last century. A machine shop was established at the same time near the South Street bridge. The map of 1830 shows the furnace, machine shop, cotton, woollen and grist mills grouped about the falls at the village.

On Muddy Brook stood Judah Marsh's mills, of which

<sup>1</sup> See p. 49.

record is made as early as 1752. They were afterwards known as Harding's Mills. The grist-mill is shown on the map of 1830, and a saw-mill on the same spot is indicated on the map of 1854.

The artificial pond just north of Aspen Grove Cemetery has furnished power for many years. In 1828 a road is laid out from near the East meeting-house past "Greenleaf's works, so called." Two years later the same establishment is referred to as tan works. Greenleaf's Tannery stood at the north of the pond. Stephen P. Bailey ran a grist-mill near the same place before 1850. Snow's Mills have occupied the site for the past sixty years. Marsh's Mills were in 1826 known as Newcome's Mills. The tannery spoken of above must not be confounded with the shop on North Street, sometimes spoken of as Tolman's Tannery, since turned into a tenement block. Tolman's establishment was for finishing leather, not for tanning. Work ceased at Tolman's some fifty years ago. Tanning ceased at Greenleaf's works some twenty-five years earlier.

Flat Brook furnished valuable power at many points. A mill stood at the extreme north just below the Hardwick line, and the outlines of the pond and some of the stone foundations may still be traced. No record of this mill has been found. It had disappeared before 1840. Some distance below this mill, and far more important, were the two auger shops. The earliest of these was situated at the point where the road crosses the brook at the W. L. Brakenridge place, a little over a mile above the Centre. Melville Snell operated the shop, which is shown on the town map of 1830. Later his brother, Deacon Thomas Snell, opened a second shop below the first, on the site of an earlier grist-mill. Both auger shops were operated for a time, but before long the upper one passed into the hands of Capt. Allender Brakenridge who turned it into a saw-mill. He in turn sold it to Ivory Harwood, who operated it for years. After the manufacture of bits ceased at the lower shop, Harwood moved his saw-mill to the latter site.

W. L. Brakenridge ran a little "coffee-mill" for grinding corn on the brook through his place just west of the first auger shop.

A fulling-mill for homespun linen was situated at the Centre at an early date — probably not less than a hundred years ago. Then a man named Stearns put in a shingle machine. His sons, Alonzo and Isaac, turned it into a wagon factory. They added a saw-mill. Later the property was bought by Julius Cowles, who continued to make wagons, and added a small grist-mill.

A tannery owned by Mr. Gould and operated by a man named Chatman stood a few rods below the road. It had stopped running seventy years ago, though the building was still standing at that time.

At the mouth of Flat Brook John Cummings built a saw-mill before he went to California in 1849. The boys have a swimming-hole there now.

Beaver Brook furnished several mill-sites. Pepper's Mill is comparatively modern. "John Pepper's saw-mill" is first mentioned in 1845.

Saw and grist mills were put up at Beaver Lake very early — probably between 1730 and 1740. The power was employed at various periods until recent times.

A saw-mill once stood farther down Beaver Brook on what is now the Averill place, identified as "Patterson's old Saw Mill," mentioned in a deed of 1782.

On Swift River at "Slab City," afterwards West Ware, there was a saw-mill as early as 1795. It is said to have been still standing sixty years ago.<sup>1</sup> Across the river on the Belchertown side, a paper-mill stood for many years. This mill was burned about 1866.

In 1883 the West Ware Paper Co. was incorporated, and a mill was built on the east side of the river, but it was unfortunately destroyed by fire in April, 1905. As the mill was not rebuilt, West Ware, once a flourishing little settlement, has dwindled away.

### BRICK YARDS

In early days brick was made in Ware sufficient for local needs. The Pumping Station grounds furnished clay from which bricks were burned for some of the earlier factory

<sup>1</sup> In 1834 mills at this place are spoken of as "Lewis's Mills."



buildings. Brick used also to be made just below the outlet of Beaver Lake, and it is said that there is still an abundance of clay of fair quality in the Beaver Brook Valley. The difficulty of marketing discourages manufacture. A third, known as Lawton's yard, formerly Deacon Hitchcock's yard, was worked for many years back of the brick house on West Street, a mile below the village. The deep red brick of which some of the older parts of the Otis Company's buildings are constructed was made here. The clay gave out some years ago and the yard was closed.

#### NENAMESECK SQUARE

A small open space in front of the Otis Company's counting room is one end of the land known as "the common," which in 1844 was cut up into building lots. It preserves the ancient Indian name of the place.

#### COMMON AND TRAINING-GROUND

The only true Common in town is before the church at Ware Centre. This space was used for "trainings" in the old days. Tradition says that great crowds gathered about the common on training days. Ebenezer Nye's tavern was close by, where was sold "rum enough to float a battle-ship."

#### PARKS

Reservoir Park, at the head of Church Street, is a small public domain overlooking the town. The Pumping Station grounds furnish a ball-field in summer and skating-pond in winter, — both of which are appreciated as places for wholesome recreation.

Grenville Park, established through the munificence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. G. Gilbert in memory of their son Grenville Brown Gilbert in 1907, is the one true park in town. It lies between Church Street and the river, extending from the Otis Company's dam northward nearly a mile. Driveways and walks have been built throughout the park, trees and shrubs planted, and the grounds made attractive.

Tasteful gateways of stone mark the entrances, one on Church Street and the other on Parks Street.

#### THE LONG SWAMP

A name given in old documents to a tract lying on the very top of Brimstone Hill, also called Long Hill. It was about 400 rods long, north and south, and 80 rods wide.

#### THE IRISH MEADOW

A tract lying on Beaver Brook, including the artificial pond at Pepper's Mills. Much of it is bog land.

#### BULLON'S CORNERS

Was a well-known "cross-roads" in old times. It appears to have been the point where the road running west from the meeting-house met the Boston Post Road. The northern fork being discontinued, the "Corners" were lost.

#### THE BULL'S RUN

The name anciently given to a road in the south-western part of the town. It probably led to the Bull's Ford, a little farther down the river than the ford-way through which the Bay Road passed.

## II

### THE MANOUR OF PEACE

MUCH the larger portion territorially of the town of Ware was comprised in the estate of John Read, and was named by him the "Manour of Peace."

The circumstances by which John Read gained possession of this great tract of more than 11,000 acres take us back to the original settlement of the country. In 1636, within a year of the building of a fort at Saybrook by the authority of those who held the Connecticut Patent, pioneers from Massachusetts Bay settled at Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield and Springfield. All of these towns were on doubtful territory. Springfield allied itself for two years with the Colony of Connecticut,<sup>1</sup> but at the same time refused to pay taxes for the support of the fort at the mouth of the Connecticut River.

In 1642 Massachusetts had caused the Colony line to be surveyed by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery. According to the original patent, the line was to run east and west from a point three miles south of the Charles River. Woodward and Saffery located the eastern starting point, but instead of extending the survey across the country, they sailed around Cape Cod and up the Connecticut<sup>2</sup> to a point they supposed to be in the same latitude with their starting point. No wonder Connecticut refused to acknowledge their line!

For more than sixty years the boundary was in dispute. At last, in 1713, Commissioners from the two Colonies met and came to an agreement. They made a report July 13, 1713, which was approved by each Colony in the following year. By the agreement Massachusetts was to retain jurisdiction over her old border towns, though they fell to the south of the Colony line.

<sup>1</sup> "The Boundary Disputes of Connecticut," by C. W. Bowen.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

For this privilege of jurisdiction Massachusetts agreed to compensate Connecticut. For as much territory as Massachusetts governed south of the true line, she agreed to give the same amount of territory in unimproved lands to her sister Colony. The equivalent thus granted to Connecticut, amounting in round numbers to 106,000 acres, became known as the "Equivalent Lands."

It should not be inferred that any permanent transfer of territory from one province to the other was contemplated by the authorities. The Equivalent Lands were not for colonization, but were intended as a financial reimbursement for the loss in province taxes sustained by Connecticut for the time being. When, some years later, those same towns, realizing that their interests lay with Connecticut rather than with Massachusetts, petitioned the General Assembly to be restored to their proper status, they were permitted to change their allegiance with but slight formality. Massachusetts protested, and continued until the time of the Revolution to levy taxes, but did not collect them. The will of the inhabitants of the towns in question determined their final status.

On April 24 and 25, 1716, a vendue was held at Hartford for the sale of the Equivalent Lands.

It must be remembered that although the lands had been surveyed, their situation and character were to a large extent problematical. The only possible purchaser would be a company of Proprietors that could purchase the title, then locate the lands, and eventually divide them. Such a company was formed, and in its behalf the lands were bid off by William Pitkin, one of the Commissioners for the sale of the lands, for the sum of £683. This sum, the proceeds of the sale, was voted to Yale College. The amount obtained<sup>1</sup> gave great dissatisfaction to the General Court of Connecticut, the record of which may be seen in the "Journal of the Assembly" and "Colonial Boundaries, Vol. III," both in the State Library at Hartford. Considerable fault must have been found with William Pitkin, who bid off these lands, as we find in the records of October, 1716, the following report of a committee of the Assembly:

<sup>1</sup> E. H. Gilbert's "Early Grants."



This Court having given William Pitkin, Esq. one of the Commissioners for sale of the Equivalent Lands the opportunity of relating to them the management in and about the sale and purchase of the Equivalents wherein he supposed himself to be a sufferer by many evil reports that had been raised about it to his prejudice, and also to the prejudice of other Commissioners concerned in that affair, do upon a full hearing declare that the said Commissioners' proceedings in the management of that affair have been with a just regard to the interest of this Colony, and that there is no reason that they should be supposed as failing in their management of what was committed to them.

Passed in the Upper House,

Test. Hez. Wyllys, Sec'y.

The lower house is of opinion that it is not convenient for them to pass any vote at all upon this preceding bill, either to affirm or deny the same.

Test.

John Hooker, Clerk.

Each of the Proprietors subscribed for one-sixteenth part of the whole tract, paying £42.,13.,9 for the same. It was a speculation, pure and simple.

The purchasers were as follows:

Hon Gurdon Saltonstall of New London in the said Colony, Esqr., Paul Dudley, Addington Davenport, Thomas Fitch and Anthony Stoddard of Boston in the said Province, Esqrs, William Brattle of Cambridge in the same Province, Clerk, Ebenezer Pemberton of Boston aforesaid, Clerk, William Dumer of the said Town of Boston, Merchant, for himself and his brother Jeremiah Dummer, Esq., Jonathan Belcher, Merchant, John White, Gentleman, both of Boston aforesaid and William Clark on Comon street in Boston aforesaid merchant, John Wainwright of the same Town merchant for himself, Henry Newman Esq. and John Caswall Merchant both of London, Samuel Appleton and Addington Davenport Esq. as feofees in trust for dame Mary Saltonstall wife of the aforesaid Gurdon Saltonstall Esqr. *Nathan Gold of Fairfield in said Colony Esqr. for himself and Peter Burr of the same Town. Esq.* John Stoddard of North Hampton in the said Province Esqr. for himself and Elisha Williams of Weathersfield in the said

Colony Gentleman, and *John Read of Lone Town in said Colony, Gentleman.*<sup>1</sup>

Nathan Gold, Peter Burr and John Read were neighbors in Fairfield, Connecticut, and were all men of eminence. Gold was at one time Lieutenant-Governor of the province. He was brother-in-law of John Read, the two men having married daughters of Lieut. John Talcott of Hartford, and sisters of Gov. Joseph Talcott. Peter Burr was a noted jurist, called in the old records "the worshipful Mr. Peter Burr."<sup>2</sup>

These two men, Gold and Burr, on the following January sold their interests in the land to John Read, as may be seen from the following deed:

Know all men<sup>3</sup> by these presents that we Nathan Gold & Peter Burr both of Fairfield in the Collony of Connecticutt Esq<sup>s</sup> for divers good causes & considerations us hereunto moveing & perticularly for the sum of Fourty three Pounds Currant money of this Collony to us in hand paid before y<sup>e</sup> ensealing of these presents, by M<sup>r</sup> John Read of Lone Town in y<sup>e</sup> County of Fairfield in the Collony of Connecticutt afores<sup>d</sup>, have given Granted Remised Released & for ever Quitt Claimed, & do by these presents for us & our heirs give grant Remise Release & for ever Quitt Claime unto y<sup>e</sup> said John Read his heirs & assigns for ever, all the Right Title Claime Interest Property use & demand whatsoever we have or by any means may have of in & unto all that one hundred and five thousand seven hundred and ninety three acres of land which was granted & allowed to y<sup>e</sup> Collony of Connecticutt by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay on the late Settlement of the Divideing line between y<sup>e</sup> said Province and Collony as an equivalent to the S<sup>d</sup> Collony for the lands allowed & Granted to belong to the s<sup>d</sup> province, that fell to the Southward of the line Lately run Between the s<sup>d</sup> province & Collony: All which one hundred & five thousand seven hundred and ninety three acres we the s<sup>d</sup> Nathan Gold & Peter Burr in Company with several other Gentlemen in June last Purchased of Matthew Allen, Joseph

<sup>1</sup> Recorded in Sec'y of State's office, Hartford, June 29, 1716. Quoted by Mr. Gilbert.

<sup>2</sup> Aaron Burr was grandnephew of Peter Burr.

<sup>3</sup> Registry of Deeds, Hampshire County.

Talcott, Roger Woolcott & Aaron Cook Esq<sup>rs</sup>: Commissioners appointed by the Gover<sup>r</sup>: & Company of y<sup>e</sup> English Collony of Connecticutt to sell the same according to the proportions Respectively set in the deed of sale thereupon then made by the Commissioners, wherein the proportion & part of the s<sup>d</sup> Equivalent lands to us y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Nathan Gold & Peter Burr Conveyed was one Intire Sixteenth Part thereof as by the s<sup>d</sup> deed. Reference thereunto being had may more fully appeare: the which Sixteenth part of the S<sup>d</sup> Equivalent lands with y<sup>e</sup> appurtenances, we do hereby Release and for ever quitt claim to ye said John Read his heirs & assigns forever: To have & to Hold y<sup>e</sup> above Remised & Released Premises and appurtenances with all o<sup>e</sup> Right title, property, interest & demand of in & unto the Same & Every part thereof to him ye Said John Read his heirs & assigns for ever against us & each of us o<sup>e</sup> & Each of our heirs, & all & every other Person & Persons Claiming or that shall Claime from by or under us or Either of us: In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seales this tenth day of January: In the yeare of our Lord 1716/17:

Nathan Gold & Seale  
Peter Burr & Seale

Signed Sealed &  
Delivered in presence of  
John Edwards  
Mary Edwards

On the Day & Yeare Above written the above named Nathan Gold & Peter Burr Esq<sup>rs</sup>: Subscribers to the above Instrument acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed, before me John Edwards Just. Pac<sup>e</sup>: on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 1720/21: This deed was Received: and was then here Registered from the original:

It should be observed that this is a quit-claim deed, conveying an entire sixteenth part of the whole tract, not a definitely-located piece of land. The deed, too, throws much light on the whole situation.

John Read thus becomes the owner of two-sixteenths of the Equivalent Lands.

I have spoken of the purchasers as a company of Proprietors. A copy of the Proprietors' Records was by good fortune found among the papers of the Supreme Court in



the case of *Read vs. Nivins*, 1763 to 1769.<sup>1</sup> As the paper is of the highest interest, and hitherto unpublished, it is given in full.

Boston June 4<sup>th</sup> 1718

At a Meeting of the Proprietors of the Equivalent Lands (as they are called) in the County of Hampshire, legally warned and met at the Green Dragon Tavern.

At this Meeting were present

1. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Dummer for himself & M<sup>r</sup> Agent Dummer
2. M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Clarke for Gov<sup>r</sup> Saltonstall
3. Addington Davenport and Benj<sup>a</sup> Lynde Esq<sup>rs</sup>
4. Thomas Fitch Esq<sup>r</sup>
5. Jonathan Belcher Esq<sup>r</sup>
6. Paul Dudley Esq<sup>r</sup>
7. Addington Davenport Esq<sup>r</sup> for Dame Mary Saltonstall
8. Anthony Stoddard Esq<sup>r</sup>
9. Paul Dudley & Jonathan Belcher Esq<sup>rs</sup> for M<sup>r</sup> John Caswall and Mr. Wainwright
10. John Stoddard Esq<sup>r</sup> for himself and Mr. Elisha Williams
11. M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Wendall for M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Brattle
12. M<sup>r</sup> John White
13. M<sup>r</sup> William Clarke

Paul Dudley Esq<sup>r</sup> Moderator

Voted. Anthony Stoddard Esq<sup>r</sup> Clerk of the said Proprietors and he was sworn to the true & faithful Execution of that Office.

Attest

Paul Dudley Esq<sup>r</sup> Moderator

Voted. That three whole Share Proprietors w<sup>th</sup> the Clerk may appoint a Meeting at any Time giving convenient Notice to the Persons interested

Voted. That Maj<sup>r</sup> John Stoddard be Agent or Generall Attorney on y<sup>e</sup> Behalf of the Proprietors.

Boston June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1718

The proprietors of the Equivalent Land being regularly met as well by Virtue of an Adjournment from the last Meeting as by a General Consent and Notification

<sup>1</sup> Court Files, Suffolk, No. 157566, 24th paper.

The Interested present were the same that were present before and M<sup>r</sup> Read for himself Deputy Gov<sup>r</sup> Gould [Gold] & M<sup>r</sup> Burr.

Voted. That the Tract of Land in the Equivalent Lands layed out for 21976 Acres be sett off for Six entire whole Shares and be at the Choice of any Six of the proprietors in full of their whole Shares Interests parts or proportions in the whole of the Equivalent Lands

And then the Choice of the said Six Shares being put to the proprietors the Six persons that offered to take the said Land were

Addington Davenport and	}	. . . .	1 Part or Share
Benj. Lynde Esq <sup>rs</sup>			
Thomas Fitch Esq <sup>r</sup>	. . . .	. . . .	1 Part
Paul Dudley Esq <sup>r</sup>	. . . .	. . . .	1 Part
Jonathan Belcher Esq <sup>r</sup> for	}	. . . .	2 Parts
himself & Mess <sup>rs</sup> Caswall			
and Wainwright			
M <sup>r</sup> William Clarke for himself	. . . .	. . . .	1 Part
As Attest			

Paul Dudley Esq<sup>r</sup> Moderator

Mett at y<sup>e</sup> Adjournment June 30<sup>th</sup> 1718

Voted. That the whole of the Equivalent Land shall be a mutual Caution or Security to make good the property of every proprietor against any just Claim or Challenge by any Town or private Persons who are not of the partnership of the Equivalents.

No Consideration to be had as to Damage of Improvements. The 28000 Acres being proposed to y<sup>e</sup> proprietors were chosen as follows.

Gov <sup>r</sup> Saltonstall	. . . . .	1 Share
Mad <sup>m</sup> Saltonstall	. . . . .	1 Share
Maj <sup>r</sup> Stoddard	. . . . .	1 Share
Mad <sup>m</sup> Pemberton	. . . . .	1 Share

The Equivalent Lands were divided generally thus.

1 Township	. . . . .	22000 Acres	6 Shares
2 "	. . . . .	28000 "	4 Shares
3 "	. . . . .	46000 "	4 Shares
4 "	. . . . .	10000 "	2 Shares
		<hr/> 106,000	"

The forty six Thousand Acres were chosen by

Lieut<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Dummer

M<sup>r</sup> John White

M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Wendall for M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Brattle's Estate

M<sup>r</sup> Anthony Stoddard

M<sup>r</sup> John Read took for himself

Deputy Gov<sup>r</sup> Gould and Maj<sup>r</sup> Burr }

The 10000 Acres

Unanimously Voted, agreed to and confirmed by all the sixteen Shares or Interests being present

As Attest

Paul Dudley Esq: Moderator

The Meeting of the proprietors is adjourned without Day Articles of Division and Deeds agreeable thereto to be drawn up to be executed by the several Proprietors to each other. this also was agreed to.

Paul Dudley Esq<sup>r</sup> Moderator

The above is a true Copy of the Votes of the proprietors of the Equivalent Lands

Attest

Anthony Stoddard Clerk

The above is a true Copy of the original which is return'd to John Worthington reg<sup>r</sup> by order of Court

Att. Sam<sup>l</sup> Winthrop Cler.

[On the back of paper]

Suffolk ss. Boston Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1767

Then the hon<sup>ble</sup> Thomas Hubbard Esq<sup>r</sup> personally appeared and made solemn Oath that he was well acquainted with the Hand Writing of Anthony Stoddard Esq<sup>r</sup> and that to the best of his Knowledge the above and within Writing attested by said Anthony Stoddard Clerk that is to say the Words, *Anthony Stoddard Clerk*, he is fully persuaded to be the Hand Writing of said Anthony Stoddard —

Before me Belcher Noyes Justice o' Peace.

Copy examin'd

p Sam<sup>l</sup> Winthrop Cler

[Endorsed]

Division of the equivalent Lands

Copy



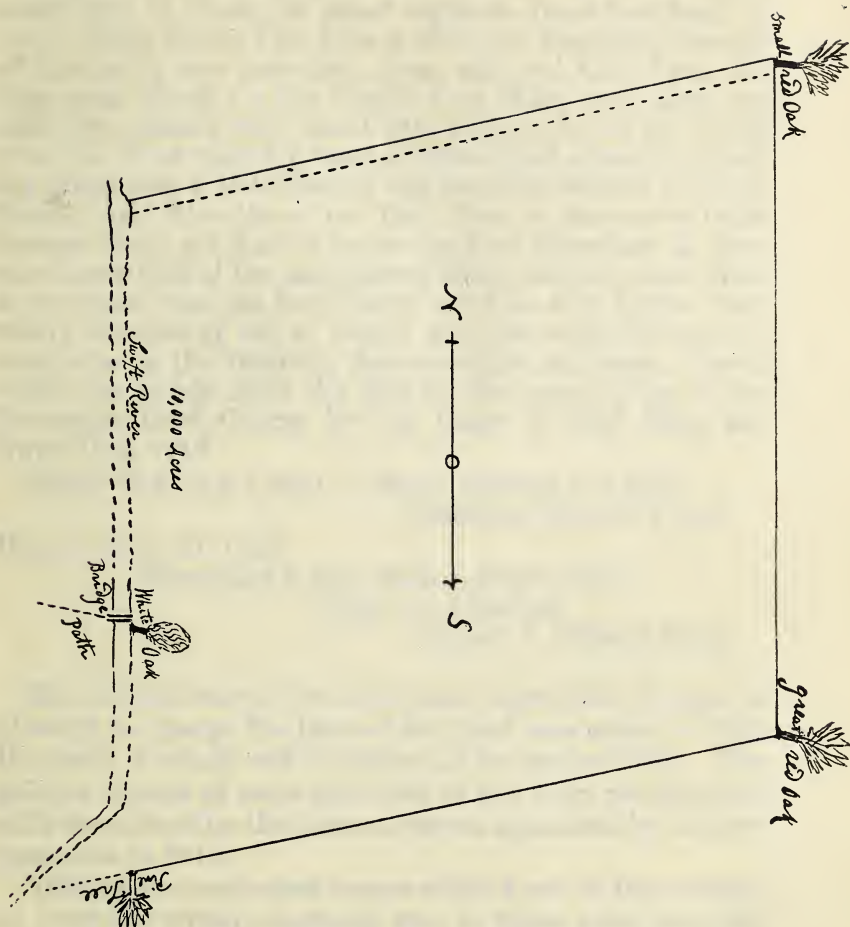
Thus we see that John Read,<sup>1</sup> by agreement of the sixteen proprietors, becomes owner of one single tract of 10,000 acres. The tract has been already surveyed, as we learn from another paper found in the Supreme Court Files, being part of the evidence in the same suit, — Read *vs.* Nivins.<sup>2</sup> This paper is an attested copy of the original survey made in 1716, and is of the highest possible value. Together with the paper is a copy of the original plot as drawn by the joint surveyors of the two colonies. The paper is as follows:

Whereas it has been agreed upon & concluded by the Commissioners appointed and impowered by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay on the one Party, & Commissioners appointed & impowered by the Colony of Connecticut on the other Party, to settle the dividen Line or Boundary between said Governments &c<sup>a</sup> That in Consideration there had been formerly granted by the said Province sundry Tracts & Quantities of Lands within said Colony there should be allowed unto said Colony Lands equivalent, to be admeasur'd & laid out within s<sup>d</sup> Province as by valid Instruments executed by said Commissioners doth appear; and whereas we Matthew Allen & Roger Wolcott on the Part of the said Colony & Ebenezer Pomroy on the Part of the said Province are appointed and instructed to admeasure survey & lay out the s<sup>d</sup> Equivalent Lands, & having formerly laid out several Tracts & Quantities thereof, as by Report under our hands doth appear, We have now in further prosecution of the Powers & Instructions to us given, admeasured, surveyed, & laid out for the said Colony the Quantity of ten thousand Acres of Land lying & being within the County of Hampshire within s<sup>d</sup> Province on the East Side of the Swift River between Hadley & Brookfield & is surveyed & laid out as followeth, We began at a large white Oak Tree standing in the East Bank of the Swift River at the foot of the Bridge in the Common Road & measured from thence on a South Line by the Needle of the *Surveying Instrument one Mile & a half* to a *Pine Tree standing on the West Side of a high hill about half a Mile East* of s<sup>d</sup> *Swift River*, from w<sup>ch</sup> *Pine Tree the Line runs West & by South to said Swift*

<sup>1</sup> The erroneous tradition concerning the Narragansett Company and the Falls Fight deed, as having reference to Ware, was corrected by Mr. Hyde. It is now certain that the John Read of Westford who figures in the deed was not our John Read at all.

<sup>2</sup> Court Files, Suffolk, No. 157566, 21st paper.





ORIGINAL PLAN OF THE READ MANOUR (reduced)

Dated April 5, 1716. Copy attested by Jos. Marion

Early Court Files No. 157566

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*River* & from s<sup>d</sup> Pine Tree the Line runs East & by North about one Mile to Ware River, & from thence on the same Point three miles to a great red Oak Tree marked & a heap of Stones by it standing on the side of a hill close by a small Run of Water, & about eighteen Rods Southerly of the s<sup>d</sup> Ware River, This Line is to be the Southerly Bounds of the Land now surveyed, from said red Oak Tree, the Line runs North by the Needle four Miles to a small red oak Tree marked with four Cutts with an Ax on the South & on the West Side & a heap of Stones laid about it, standing about half a Mile East of the Easterly Branch of Stony Brook, And from the s<sup>d</sup> red Oak Tree on the same Point sixteen Rods, w<sup>ch</sup> Line is to be the East Boundary & from the North End of the said sixteen Rods, the Line runs West & by South unto the Swift River w<sup>ch</sup> Line is to be the Northerly Bounds of the s<sup>d</sup> Lands And the swift River as it runs is to be the Westerly Bounds of the s<sup>d</sup> Lands. Given under our hands April the fifth in the second Year of our Sovereign Lord George by the Grace of God King &c<sup>a</sup> Anno Dom 1716

Roger Wolcot & a Seal — Eben<sup>r</sup> Pomroy & a Seal

Matthew Allyn & a Seal

Boston May 21 1716

Examined p Jos. Marion Dep<sup>ty</sup> Secry

Copy as of Record

Attest<sup>r</sup> J. Willard Secry.

This original survey has never been superseded, though an attempt to change the lines of the tract was made in 1755, the story of which will be related in its proper place. The present bounds of more than half of our town are identical with those fixed by the joint surveyors appointed by the two provinces in 1716.

Visiting the south-west corner of the town in the summer of 1910 the writer observed, two or three rods from the recently erected boundary post, a circle of large stones on the bank of Swift River that were evidently once piled about a great tree; undoubtedly the original corner of the grant, fixed when Ware was a part of the primeval wilderness. It is quite probable that a careful perambulation of the lines would reveal the location of other ancient landmarks. One such landmark worth noting, mentioned in the

survey, is the bridge over Swift River, on the country road known as the Bay Path.

John Read was a man of sufficient prominence and interest, both in his relations with Ware and with the Provinces of Massachusetts and Connecticut, to command our attention at some length. He was born at Fairfield, Connecticut, Jan. 29, 1679-80. His father was William Read, a large Connecticut land owner. In the ancient Fairfield Town Deeds there is a record under date of 1693 of a parcel of land deeded by him to his daughters Sarah and Abigail, and to his "loving son John Read." At the age of seventeen John graduated from Harvard College, and at once proceeded to fit himself for the ministry. He preached two years at East Hartford, and in 1703 was called to Stratford where he supplied the pulpit from 1703 to 1707, though never formally installed as pastor. The ancient Town Records of Stratford show him as a man deeply respected. The Committee appointed by the town to engage him is directed to employ every means to induce him to accept the call. About 1707 he removed to New Milford, preaching the first sermon in that town. He resided there two or three years. At this time he became greatly interested in the study of law, and was admitted to practice at the bar in 1708. His superior abilities enabled him to rise rapidly in his profession, and for several years he held the post of Queen's Attorney for the Colony of Connecticut. He had married in 1700 Ruth Talcot of Hartford, a member of one of the most prominent families in Connecticut.<sup>1</sup> In 1721 he removed to Boston, where his talents were given wide play, and he became the most noted jurist of his time, — the oracle of the Governor's Council, styled by John Adams as "that great Gamaliel."

Read has left the reputation of being a man of wit and fancy as well as of intellectual attainment. This fancy was evidently exercised in naming his farms and estates. "New Farm," "Chicken's Farm," "Nod," "Mount Misery," "New Harbour," "Popple Hill," "Hopewell"; all these are names found recorded in ancient deeds and wills pertaining to the family estates. His home estate in Reading,

<sup>1</sup> Sketch of John Read by Judge McIntire, genealogies in Stratford and Fairfield town histories, and ancient records in several places.



Fairfield County, was called "Lone Town." To his tract of Equivalent Lands he gave the most poetic name of all, — the "Manour of Peace."<sup>1</sup> The suggestiveness of the name is peculiarly apt. The land was laid out and settlers invited to it but a few years after the fearful massacres of Brookfield and Deerfield, while the memory of those events was still fresh in men's minds. Now the danger was past, and Mr. Read offered a peaceful habitation to such spirits as desired to find homes in a wilderness no longer perilous from savages.

John Read proceeded to develop the tract — as yet uninhabited — after the model of an English Manour, and he evidently anticipated that it would in time become a very great and valuable country estate.

The "Mansion House" was situated on Queen's Street in Boston, rather distant from the estate; but the owner's interest in the development of the property is fully shown by the piecing together of fragmentary evidence. Unfortunately no steward's records or accounts have been preserved.

Mr. Read's policy was to let out the land under lease. Not one acre did he sell, to the day of his death. The only portion that he parted with was a gift of 200 acres to serve as glebe and ministry lot, — to which reference will be made later.

In 1722 he mortgaged the whole tract to Madam Hannah Clark of Boston for £150, describing it as his "Ten Thousand Acres of land being near Brookfield in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, being that two sixteenth parts of the land commonly called the Equivalent Lands." The discharge of the mortgage is not recorded, — a frequent oversight of those days.

The exact date of settlement of Mr. Read's earliest lessees is impossible to determine. The earliest date that I have been able to fix upon is that of a lease to Henry Dwight, Esq. (who afterwards disposed of the lease to Joseph Brooks, and himself removed to Hatfield), of 200 acres of land in the southern part of the Manour, in 1726. The document from which this information is gained is of the greatest possible

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Hyde's surmise as to the "peace offering to Connecticut" is without foundation. The lands were in no sense a peace offering.

value, and throws a flood of light upon the early conditions under which the Manour lands were settled. It was discovered by chance in the old Registry of Deeds for Hampshire County, and is as follows:

This Indenture made the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y, A.D. 1752 Between Joseph Brooks, of Ware River Precinct in the County of Hampshire in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Husbandman of the one part, and Joseph Scott of s<sup>d</sup> Ware River Precinct in the county and province afore<sup>d</sup>, Husbandman of the other part. Witnesseth that the said Joseph Brooks, In consideration of the Rents and Covenants hereafter mentioned of the sum of one hundred pounds to me in hand paid, Do demise and grant unto him the said Joseph Scott his heirs, executors & administrators or assigns all my Right & Interest that I have may or can have by virtue of a Lease from John Read late of Boston Esq<sup>r</sup> Deceas<sup>d</sup> to Henry Dwight late of Hatfield Esq<sup>r</sup> Deceas<sup>d</sup> in two hundred acres of land in the Southerly part of the Ten Thousand Acres of Equivalent land so called lying in the County of Hampshire, One hundred Acres of said land lying on the Easterly Side of Ware River in the Elbow of said River Oposite to the Mouth of Stevens Brook,<sup>1</sup> The other Hundred acres lying on the Westerly side of said River in opposition to the first Hundred acres and joyning to it, It being the Farm on which Joseph Wright and the said Joseph Brooks now lives, by which lease the said John Read did demise, set, and to Farm let to him the said Henry Dwight the said two Hundred acres of land, Together with the priviledge of Getting wood Timber and Stone on any part of the said Ten Thousand acres of Land for use and improvement of the Tenants upon the said two hundred acres while the same Ten thousand acres or any part thereof shall be unimproved and undisposed of to other people as he himself might, they making no unreasonable waste and Destruction therein, as also the priviledge of all necessary Highways upon and over the said Ten thousand acres; To Have and to Hold the said two Hundred acres of Land with the appurtenances and priviledges and with the liberty and priviledge as above mentioned to him the said Henry Dwight his execu<sup>rs</sup> admi<sup>rs</sup> & assigns for & during the Term of Ninety-nine Years from & after the twenty

<sup>1</sup> Now known as Beaver Brook. }

fifth day of March Seventeen Hundred and Twenty Six the same Henry Dwight his Executors admin<sup>rs</sup> and assigns Yielding and paying therefor Yearly During the said Term on the Twenty Fifth Day of March the Annuale or Sum of fifty Shillings in money of the Common Currency between man & man to the said John Read and his Heirs, And the said Joseph Scott for himself and his Heirs Execu<sup>rs</sup> Admin<sup>rs</sup> or assigns, Doth covenant promise and grant to & with the said Joseph Brooks his Heirs & assigns that he the said Joseph Scott his Execu<sup>rs</sup> Admin<sup>rs</sup> or assigns or some of them shall from the Day of the Date hereof keep a Good Tenantable Dwelling House upon the said two Hundred acres and Settle himself or a Tenant in the Same and always thenceforward During the Remainder of the said Term (It being seventy two years from March next) Support or Cause to be Supported a good Family upon the said Farm, Constantly Improving the said Farm in the best & most advantageous manner, as well for the advantage of the said Farm by good Husbandry as for the benefit of the Tenant & Occupants thereof, and that he the said Joseph Scott his Execu<sup>rs</sup> Admin<sup>rs</sup> & assigns Shall from time to time and at all times during the Remainder of said Term, bear and pay all and all manner of Taxes & assessments that shall be laid upon the said Land owners or Occupiers by Reason of said land hereby Demised or Rent herein Reserving without any Deduction or abatement of the annual Rent hereafter mentioned. And the said Joseph Scott doth further Covenant Promise & Engage for himself his Heirs Executors admin<sup>rs</sup> or assigns to yield and pay to the said Joseph Brooks his Heirs Executors admin<sup>rs</sup> or assigns on the Twenty fifth Day of March annually During the whole Term of said Seventy two Years the Rent or Sum of fifty Shillings in money of the Common Currency between man & man or Otherwise produce proper Receipts and Discharges Annually of the Rents as they Shall become Due agreeable to Covenant made between the said John Read & Henry Dwight from the Heirs of the said John Read or their Assigns so that the said Joseph Brooks Shall be Saved Harmless from all payments that Shall be made by the s<sup>d</sup> Henry Dwight Deceas<sup>d</sup> his Heirs Execu<sup>rs</sup> Admin<sup>rs</sup> or assigns and all Cost & Charge y<sup>t</sup> may arise by Reason of his the said Joseph Scott's neglect of payment agreeable to the Covenant before Recited And also that the said Joseph Scott his Execu<sup>rs</sup> Admin<sup>rs</sup> and assigns Shall do nor Suffer no unreasonable

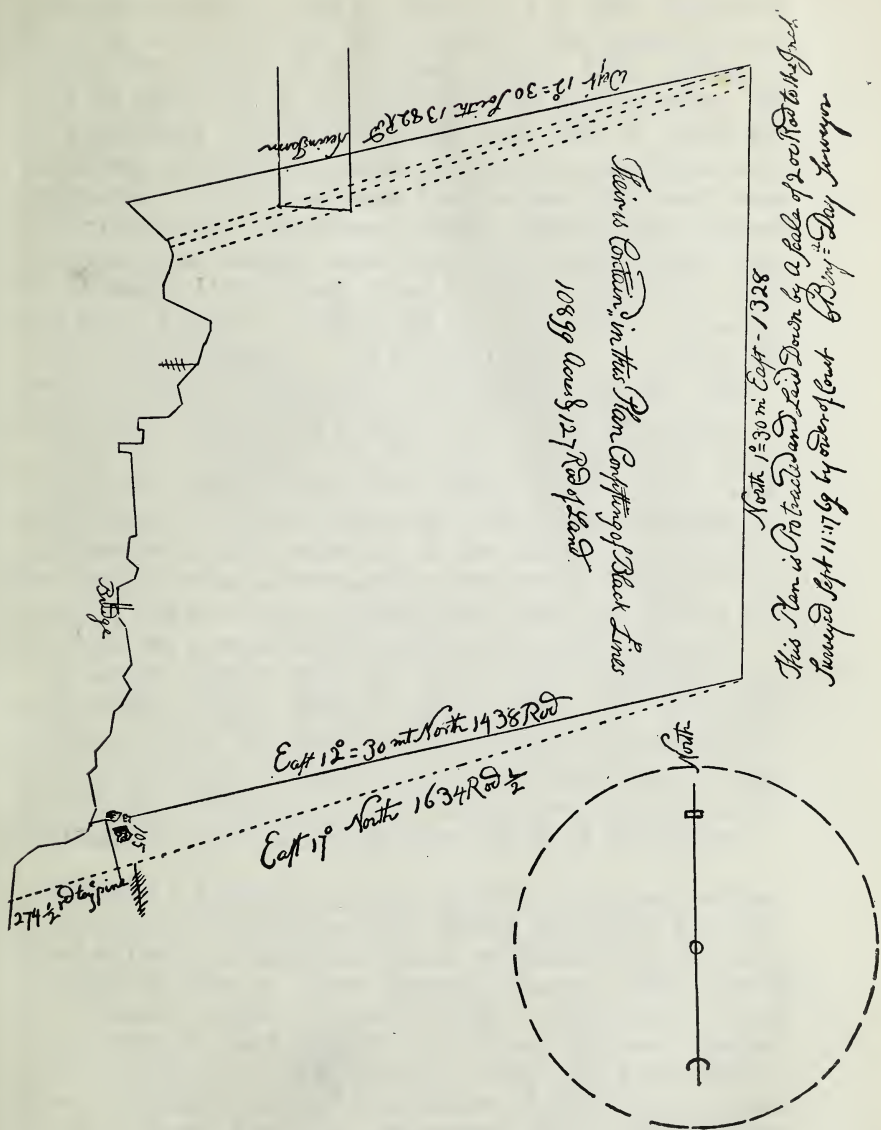


waste or Destruction on the premises during the s<sup>d</sup> Term and at the Expiration thereof Shall Deliver quiet and peaceable possession thereof to y<sup>e</sup> Heirs of the said John Read or their Assigns with all the buildings Fences and Improvements which shall be found Convenient and be used there in good Repair, And Furthermore he the said Joseph Scott his Executors administ<sup>rs</sup> & assigns Shall at all times during the said Term maintain & preserve good & sufficient bounds & Marks round the said two Hundred acres and Especially on that Side where it bounds on the South line of the said Ten thousand acres and the fence he shall have Occasion to make near that line Shall be carefully laid & Erected in the line for the greater Security & preservation of the Just limits & bounds of the said Read's land, and leave the same fence Especially in good repair at the End of this Term, And further that the said Joseph Scott his Execu<sup>rs</sup> admin<sup>rs</sup> and assigns and Every of them doing and paying as is before Expressed Shall quietly & peaceably have hold use Occupy & possess the two Hundred acres afores<sup>d</sup> with the appurtenances and Priviledges & liberties aforementioned for and during the said Term of Seventy two Years as fully as I myself might or Could by virtue of the lease afores<sup>d</sup> without any lett or Molestation from me the said Joseph Brooks my Heirs Execu<sup>rs</sup> administ<sup>rs</sup> or assigns or any other person claiming from by or under me or them or any of them and further in case the said Joseph Scott his Execu<sup>rs</sup> Administ<sup>rs</sup> or assigns shall fail of doing & performing & paying as is before Expressed it shall & may be lawfull for him the said Joseph Brooks his Heirs, Execu<sup>rs</sup> administ<sup>rs</sup> or assigns to Re Enter into the premises and to use Occupy & Receive the profits of the Same. And it is further agreed between the said Joseph Brooks & Joseph Scott that whereas the said Joseph Brooks hath lately Erected and Set upon the said two Hundred acres of Land a Dwelling House about fifteen rods Northerly of the House In which Joseph Wright now liveth that the said Joseph Scott Shall have the said House Intire to himself without being accountable therefor save only the said Brooks may hold and Improve the same till the Tenth Day of May next and no longer. In Witness whereof the parties to these presents have Interchangeably set their hands & seals the Day and Year first mentioned.

In presence of

Joseph Brooks & Seal.

Jacob White : David Bliss.



THE MANOUR (reduced)  
 From a survey made in 1769

*[The page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is arranged in several paragraphs and appears to be a formal document or letter.]*

It is fair to infer that the terms of the lease to Henry Dwight embodied in this indenture do not differ materially from the terms of other leases given by the proprietor, except in the amount of the annual rental. Fifty shillings a year for 200 acres of land certainly was not excessive. In all probability the earliest lessees were able to make the best terms, the land increasing in value as more farms were improved. There is evidence from certain old court cases that other leases, the dates of which unfortunately cannot be determined exactly, were made at a much higher rate. For example, of the Nivins farm in 1763 we find that "The said John Read . . . within 30 years last past was seized of the said 78 acres . . . in his own right, . . . taking the profits thereof to the value of 40 shillings by the year." About this same rate is recorded for the Moulton farm.

From this evidence, and from the very favorable situation of the Dwight farm at the Elbow of the river, which would lead to its being taken up at the first, and from the comparatively high valuation of the farm over and above the annual rental, showing the rental to be below its true value, I think we may conclude that the year 1726 is not far from the actual date of settlement of the Manour.

It would appear that for some years boundary lines were rather vague. But as settlers came into the neighborhood, and as Mr. Read's lessees increased in numbers, it became necessary to mark the boundary lines clearly. This, in 1734, Mr. Read caused to be done, as may be seen by the following record in the Proprietors' Book of the Elbows:

Whereas I Ebenezer Pumroy of North Hampton within y<sup>e</sup> County of Hampshire Esq<sup>r</sup> Being appointed by John Read of Boston within the County of Suffolk Esq<sup>r</sup> To Perambulate & Run y<sup>e</sup> Lines Between the said John Read's ten thousand acres of Land Called y<sup>e</sup> Equivelent Land Lying upon y<sup>e</sup> East Side of Swift River Between Hadley and Brookfield: And a Tract of Land called the Elbow Tract Belonging unto y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of Said Tract as per act of the Gen<sup>l</sup> Assembly may appear, Which Elbow Tract of Land Lyeth Partly Southerly and partly Easterly of S<sup>d</sup> Read's Ten Thousand Acres, And I, y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Pumroy giving more than Six Days warning Sent & Gave Notice to y<sup>e</sup>



Proprietors of the Said Elbow Tract to meet me at y<sup>e</sup> Home of Mr. Aaron Lyman near unto said Place, Upon Munday Aprill 29<sup>th</sup> 1734. And accordingly I went to the Place appointed and the Same Day there mett me Mess<sup>rs</sup> Steward Southgate, Andrew Mackee and Samuelt Doolitel a comitee appointed by y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of the Said Elbow Tract, To Perambulate and Run y<sup>e</sup> Bounds Between y<sup>e</sup> Said Tract of Land and y<sup>e</sup> Said John Read Land. And we could find no Eastern Bounds that was made when y<sup>e</sup> Land was originally Laid out, But only at y<sup>e</sup> South East Corner of the Said Reads Land which was a Red oak tree marked and a Heap of Stones by it Standing upon y<sup>e</sup> Side of a Hill Close by a Small Run of water and about Eighteen Rods Southerly of Ware River, Which Tree is now fallen Down but very Evident to be y<sup>e</sup> Same Tree, and Place, in y<sup>e</sup> originall Boundarie and we added to y<sup>e</sup> affors<sup>d</sup> Heap of Stones, and from Said Tree we Run North by the Needle So farr as we Supposed the Elbow Tract Extended North,



in which Line we Erected Severall Heaps of Stones & marked many Trees in s<sup>d</sup> Line with the mark in y<sup>e</sup> margin; And we Ended that Line in a Narrow Swampy Place, Partly between two Popple Swamps and there we marked a Small popple Standle or Tree Setting upon it as follows viz<sup>t</sup> 1734-Read=E. P.: And then we Returned Back to y<sup>e</sup> affors<sup>d</sup> Heap of Stones being the s<sup>d</sup> South East Corner of the s<sup>d</sup> John Reads Land, and then run West and by South, by y<sup>e</sup> Needle and in that Line we Erected Severall Heaps of Stones and marked Severall Trees in s<sup>d</sup> Line w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Mark in y<sup>e</sup> margin affors<sup>d</sup> and we extended that Line to Swift River, which came to s<sup>d</sup> River a little above a Great Bow in y<sup>e</sup> River, about two Rods northerly of a cart Path that Crosses Said River, and there we Laid a Heap of Stones; which Heap is y<sup>e</sup> South West corner of s<sup>d</sup> John Read's ten Thousand acres of Land, Being about a mile and a Half Below Swift River Bridge. Upon which Perambulation we have made Duplicates of the Same, and Sett to our hands this thirtieth Day of Aprill in y<sup>e</sup> Seventh Year of the Reign of George y<sup>e</sup> Second by y<sup>e</sup> Grace of God of Great Brittain France & Ireland King Defender of the Faith, &c. Anno Domini 1734.

	Ebenetz <sup>r</sup> Pumroy
Comt <sup>ee</sup>	{ Samuelt Doolitel
	{ Andrew Mackee
	{ Steward Southgate



Nor was the Manour so undesirable a territory for settlement as from some quarters we have been led to believe. Much has been written of the poverty of the soil due to annual burnings. The extent and frequency of those burnings has been greatly exaggerated. The hills were well wooded, and furnished an abundance both of timber and of fuel. The statement copied by writer after writer that a stray cow or sheep could be discerned from the top of Coy's Hill within a radius of many miles is so manifestly absurd that one wonders at its constant repetition; unless, indeed, the domestic animals were "giants in those days."

Without doubt the early inhabitants were poor, but never as poor as the second Brookfield community that settled after the massacre.

The advantages of the Manour were not inconsiderable. In the first place the Bay Road crossed it from east to west, — an important and well-travelled highway long before 1725. The Flat Brook, Beaver Brook and Swift River valleys made it easy to travel north and south. There was a highway through the Beaver Brook Valley at a very early date, connecting Palmer and Greenwich, and though there was no highway through the Flat Brook Valley until after 1795, yet there was a passable road, for as early as 1761 the Magoons, praying the General Court that they might be annexed to Ware River Parish, describe the road from their farm to the meeting-house as "naturally good."

A second advantage was in the brooks themselves and the water-power they supplied. It was far easier to build a dam on a brook sufficient for the needs of a saw-mill or a grist-mill than to harness the waters of a considerable river. Beaver Brook, Flat Brook and Muddy Brook, just to the east of the Manour, furnished no less than a dozen small but advantageous mill-sites. Probably the earliest dam was built on Beaver Brook, and the Mill Pond that figures largely in ancient documents, and was evidently the important centre of the whole Manour, occupied the territory of the late Beaver Lake. The dam was some rods farther north than the Miner and Yale dam and the pond smaller than the one so lately drained. The pond was in use in 1755, but the mill appears to have been destroyed not long after, for

when the County Road was built in 1763 it was described as "crossing Beaver Brook near where a saw-mill formerly stood."<sup>1</sup>

Besides these advantages, such as they were, there was one which we of today are liable to lose sight of; the advantage of having a wealthy and influential patron near to the centre of colonial authority. John Read — and his heirs carried on the same traditions — was always ready to promote the interests of his tenants. He was continually consulted, and before important action was taken in public matters it was customary to appoint a committee "to see what Mr. Read would do."

Few traditions of the proprietor have survived. The latest that the writer has found is in Mr. Hyde's address, where he says that the oldest son of one John Tisdale "was named John Read after the lord of the Manour." The names of a few of the original lessees have been discovered, culled from ancient deeds and other papers in which they are mentioned. Besides Henry Dwight there was Ebenezer Davis who leased a farm on the Swift River, which he purchased in 1761, and John Harwood, who purchased in the same year. A tract originally leased to Isaac Magoon was bought by his grandson in 1771. John Pulsifer bought in 1761 land which he had previously held under lease. Others less surely identified were John Davis, David Read, Benjamin Bartlett, Enos Allen, Robert Moulton, the Widow Bush, Edmond Taylor, Joseph Patterson, Thomas Crowfoot and Jonathan Rogers.

John Read died in Boston in 1749 at the age of sixty-nine years, and was buried in the crypt of King's Chapel of which he had been vestryman.

What Mr. Read's wishes and intentions may have been in regard to the Manour Estate which he kept intact during his lifetime can never be known. He died intestate, and his vast estates in Connecticut, in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire were divided by mutual agreement among the heirs. A division at first agreed upon but afterwards revoked is recorded in the Probate Records of Fairfield, Connecticut. The second agreement was recorded in the Registry of Hampshire County, — a huge document covering

<sup>1</sup> Records, Court of Sessions, Northampton.

more than twelve folio pages closely written. That document enables us to trace the earliest division of the Manour Lands, and by its aid we can fill in with the names of early settlers a great portion of the space that has appeared heretofore as a hopeless blank. Untiring search has been made for a complete plan of the Manour, such as certainly existed, for references are constantly made to it in the old papers, but none has come to light. There was found, however, filed among the Probate Records in Boston, a detailed plan of Abigail Miller's Division, and this has materially assisted in the identification of certain positions. The agreement among the heirs is dated June 20, 1755. After disposing of the Connecticut estates the agreement proceeds thus:

And now that tract of Equivalent lands lying betwixt Swift River and Ware River in Ware River Precinct in the county of Hampshire, containing 11320 acres or thereabouts, bounded Southerly and partly Easterly on Palmer precinct, Easterly partly on Palmer, Northerly partly on Hardwick and partly on Greenwich, and Westerly on said Swift River, so often called the Manour of Peace.

John Read, Jr., receives 1513 acres; Ruth Hunn, 970 acres; Wm. Read, 980 acres; Deborah, wife of Henry Paget, 2385 acres; Abigail Miller, 2271 acres; and Mary, wife of Charles Morris, 2501 acres.

But one other matter relating to the Manour as a whole remains to be told in this connection. It was noted in the Division that the Manour Lands amounted to 11,320 acres instead of the traditional 10,000. An attempt was made in 1755 by Robert Nevins or Nivins of Hartford, in a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts, to get the boundary lines of the tract relocated, on the ground that the original survey

exceeds, as your petitioner supposes the Quantity designed, greatly so that the province is wronged thereby.

Nivins was not so disinterested as the words would imply. It seems that he had purchased a tract of land of the Pynchon heirs, it being part of a grant of 500 acres made to



the Hon. John Pynchon as early as 1666, but not surveyed until 1726. This tract lay to the north of the 10,000 acres of Equivalent Lands. The Pynchon heirs had encroached on the Read Tract unwittingly, and had given warranty deeds to Nivins, Moulton, and possibly others, of lands to which they had themselves no title. These men began to improve their farms and put up buildings. Moulton's house was built on Read's land, his chimney figuring in a certain dividing line of the Manour. The simplest and least expensive method of disentangling the matter was to ask the General Court to appoint a commission to relocate the northern line of the tract and confirm the titles of Nivins, Moulton and others. The General Court on receiving the petition appointed a committee to "take this matter under due consideration and report." The Committee looked over the ground, and reported to the General Court, which body in 1759 wisely declined to enter upon any readjustment of lines. Soon after this decision of the General Court the Read heirs brought suits against Nivins and Moulton. The former was made the test case, and was appealed by Nivins to the Supreme Court, after judgment in the lower court had been given against him. A second survey of the tract was ordered by the court which, though a little more definite than the first survey, was practically identical with it. The case was before the courts six years. In 1769 the verdict of the lower court was confirmed, the jury finding for the plaintiffs (the Read heirs) "possession of the land and premises demanded, and cost of court."

### III

#### SETTLING ON THE LAND

THE methods by which the early settlers gained their titles to the land need a few words of explanation.

It was generally assumed that the Indians owned the land, and that their rights ought to be respected. So it was that in all the Colonies we constantly read of the white settlers purchasing the land of the aborigines. But to purchase land of the Indians did not, at least in the Colony of Massachusetts, give a man a legal title. The governmental theory was that all the land belonged to the Colony, and the General Court alone could dispose of it. So if a man desired land, he must go to the General Court for a clear title. At the same time the Court recognized a quasi-ownership by the Indians, and expected the grantee to satisfy any Indian claimants, either before or after the legal grant was made. A deed of sale from the Indians was evidence of ownership as far as it went, but that was not very far. The Indians did not understand the purport of the documents to which they fixed their marks, the boundaries of which tracts were extremely indefinite. In many instances, too, the price paid by the white men was absurdly inadequate, and they were frequently buying wholly as a speculation. Thus we see that the famous Indian Deed that was signed by John Magus, Lawrence Nasowanna, James, Simon and Anogemag, transferring a great tract to Joshua Lamb and Company, though drawn in 1686, was not even presented for registration until 1723, when all the original grantees were dead except one.<sup>1</sup> The price purported to have been paid was only £20. That the purchasers of Indian lands did not take their transactions seriously in all cases, is shown by a whimsical

<sup>1</sup> This Indian Deed has been so often quoted that the text is not given here. Nor does it in fact include any considerable portion of Ware territory, the Nename-sick or Ware River forming its western boundary. Lamb and Company never had any rights within our town borders.



deed drawn by John Read while living in the Connecticut Colony:

Know all men by these crooked Scrawls and Seals, yt we Chickens, alias Sam Mohawk, and Naseco, do solemnly declare that we are owners of yt tract of land called Lonetown etc. . . .

Witness our crooked marks and borrowed seals.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore the Indians did not mean to give away their own fishing and hunting rights, the reservation of such rights being sometimes specified, and generally understood even when not specified.

As to the claims of squatters, the Court was not disposed to give them any countenance whatever. It is readily seen that once squatters were scattered over the country-side further grants would be out of the question, for the boundaries would be indeterminate and doubtful, and in many instances where squatters had taken up and improved lands and built homes upon them, the Court confirmed their titles, provided there was no encroachment on any legally and regularly granted premises.

Land grabbers and speculators were extremely common, men who through their political influence had the opportunity to get hold of huge undefined tracts. Such were the Pynchons of Springfield; such was John Read, whose holdings were enormous. Some tracts were developed and settled through the influence of the owner, others disposed of.

One example of many, showing the magnitude of these transactions, is the sale by John Read in 1737 of a great tract lying to the south of the Deerfield River. For £1020 he deeds to John Checkly, Gentleman, and Gershom Keyes, Merchant, both of Boston, 23,040 acres, "by me purchased of the Selectmen of the Town of Boston by there deed dated the 14th of July last, . . . being Township No. 1, granted and laid out to the town of Boston."

It was impossible for Mr. Read's heirs to locate all his holdings, some of which were situated in the wilds of New Hampshire.

Legislative grants were frequently made to private indi-

<sup>1</sup> "History of Redding."

viduals as a reward for some service to the Colony, as fighting the Indians or bearing dispatches. Frequently also to men who had no claim except that they were in needy circumstances. In the earliest days the grants were made without conditions, and frequently changed hands, for a financial consideration, several times before they were actually settled. Such was the case with the Hollingsworth Tract. In later times the grant was made with the proviso that the lands be improved and families settled upon them within a stated period, otherwise the title to be forfeited.

There was no need of observing the formality of purchasing land from the Indians so far as Ware territory was concerned, for there were no permanent Indian settlements within our borders, and any claims of the aborigines were extremely vague and indefinite.

#### THE CAPT. JOHN SHELDON GRANT

The earliest map or plan of any portion of our territory which I have found, with the exception of the Read Manour survey of 1716, is the survey of a grant to John Sheldon dated 1719. Sheldon was one of the sufferers from the Indian assault on Deerfield, Feb. 29, 1704, when his wife, a baby, his brother-in-law and his daughter's husband were slain, and four of his children, together with other relatives and townsmen, more than a hundred in all, were carried as prisoners to Canada. Sheldon was employed by the Provincial Government to trace the captives, and made three journeys to Canada, securing the redemption of fifty-six of those unfortunate persons. In 1707 he recites his hardships and misfortunes to the General Court, and asks for a tract of 500 acres "in or near the County of West Hampshire." The request was granted as follows: —

Massachusetts,

Anno Regni

Annae Reginae

Sexto.

1127711

At a session of the Great and General Court or Assembly held at Boston upon Wednesday the 29th of October 1707.  
In Council

The following Resolve passed in the House of Representatives, upon the petition of John Sheldon, several times sent on messages to Canada, Read and Concurred.

vizt.

Resolved that three hundred acres of land be granted to the Petitioner (not to contain above forty acres of meadow) In consideration of his good service mentioned in the Petition.

A plat thereof to be laid before this Court for confirmation.

Consented to

J. Dudley

Mr. Tim Dwight

These . . . orders: to lay out by the direction of your Kinsman Henry Dwight: three hundred acres of upland and meadow: of the Countrey land: and make A Returne: to me or your Kinsman of your proceedings: before the next Election at Boston:

Yours

John Sheldon

May 4th, 1719.

The land was surveyed as directed:

Platt of 300 acres of land laid out to Capt. Jn<sup>o</sup> Sheldon west of Potaquatuck Hill on Ware River, s<sup>d</sup> land not containing above fourty acres of bogg meddow. Protracted by a scale of 33 perch to an Inch. Surveyed by the Needle of the Instrument May 23, 1719. p Timothy Dwight

Sur.<sup>1</sup>

The plat is interesting as it shows the course of Ware River carefully projected above and below the point where Beaver Brook flows in, thus identifying the exact locality in the southern portion of the Manour Lands. The encroachment upon the Manour must have been detected very soon, for when in October of the same year Sheldon sells his grant to Henry Dwight of Hatfield for £21, he gives only a quitclaim deed.<sup>2</sup>

Finding that the 300 acres he had purchased of John Sheldon had indeed been surveyed on lands already appropriated, "so as to interfere with the 10,000 acres of

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Archives, Maps and Plans, No. 5, pp. 29, 30.

<sup>2</sup> Springfield Registry, D, p. 395.



Equivalent Lands," Dwight petitions the General Court that the grant may be laid out in some unappropriated lands. In the House of Representatives it was ordered "that the 300 acres be laid out in the unappropriated land of the province where the same may be found, and a plat returned within twelve months, to discharge and satisfy the Grant made to the said John Sheldon . . . and the former survey is hereby declared null and void." The Council concurred, and the Governor consented. Henry Dwight found a tract a little farther to the south, on the slope of Pottaquattuck Mountain, — "beginning at a pine tree So. Et from Pattaquattuck Pond," — and so he leaves our territory so far as the grant is concerned. But evidently he had found the first location greatly to his mind, for he leased of John Read 200 acres lying at the Elbow of the river, — the best portion of the survey of 1719.

### SQUATTERS

A certain number of squatters settled within the bounds of our town, filling the spaces that were not comprised in the Manour, the Hollingsworth Grant and the Marsh Tract. Some of these squatters had settled under the authority of Lamb and Company, or rather of their successors. Lamb and Company, claiming a sort of ownership in the large tract covered by the Indian Deed, tried in vain to get the General Court to "Confirm unto them and those they represent and their associates the said Tract of land described in the deed." This the Court refused to do. For six years the Company strove to secure a grant, succeeding at last in 1732, when a tract was given them six miles square "northward of and adjacent to Ware River." There was absolutely no recognition of any rights under the Indian Deed.

But illegal as any claim on our town lands was, the Company had asserted a claim, and had been able to impose upon certain settlers, claiming a right to give title which they did not possess.

The attempt of these misled settlers to gain a title from the Court is a long story, and need not concern us in detail.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The whole story is related in Temple's "History of Palmer."

The whole thing in a nutshell may be found in the following petition under date of Nov. 24, 1732.

November 24, 1732. A Petition of Joseph Wright and fifty-six others, Inhabitants of a Tract of land situate between Springfield, Brookfield, Brimfield, the Equivalent Land and Cold Spring, shewing that the Petitioners are sensible that the Lands they are settled on do of right belong to the Province; but for as much as they were encouraged to settle there by Joshua Lamb Esq. and Company who pretended a Title to the Land and with whom they had agreed as to the purchase — Therefore praying a grant of the s<sup>d</sup> Land from this Court, for such consideration as the Court shall judge reasonable.

The Court appointed a committee to go upon the land and view the situation and circumstances,<sup>1</sup> which concerned a large portion of the settlers in the Elbow Tract of which our own town was but a small fraction. The committee found eighty persons improperly settled, forty-eight of the number induced by Lamb and Company, who had given them deeds of conveyance. It recommended that such as had gotten the land in good faith, had built homes and made improvements, should have their titles confirmed.

Furthermore the Committee found thirty-one persons having presumed to enter on the Province Land in said Tract without any leave or order from this Court, or made any Pretence of Mistake, or Admission from the Claimers: Yet they having most of them made considerable Improvements and expended the chief of their Small Fortunes: And having paid their proper proportion for the support of the Ministry among them; That to Remove them off would reduce them to extreme Poverty.

<sup>1</sup> "We Find the greatest part of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Land to be Pine Land, High Hills, and Low Valleys; the hills very poor and mean, the valleys pretty good.

We Also Find that the said Tract of Land lies in a Broken form, and is much Discommoded by Farms claimed by Particular Grants from this Court, which have taken up the best of y<sup>e</sup> land.

We Also Find that the Circumstances of y<sup>e</sup> Petitioners & Settlers and their Settlements are Different and much Intricate and Perplexed; Some of them having entred and Settled without Regulation, and Interfered and Incroached upon other men's Pitches and Improvements. And in many instances two several Setlers claim one and y<sup>e</sup> same spot under different pleas and pretences of Right; some having Lots laid out; some partly laid, and others only Pitched, interfering one with another as aforesaid." From Report of Committee.



We are therefore humbly of the opinion, that it may not be Inconsistent with y<sup>e</sup> Honor of the Province, and yet a sufficient Discountenance to such Presumptious Settlements; If there be granted to each of them a single Lot, including their Improvements.

But while recommending thus the clemency of the General Court, a penalty was imposed upon these settlers, that they "Do pay into the Publick Treasury of this Province *The Sum of Five Hundred Pounds* within two years," together with all back taxes, and the expenses of the Commission.

The Report of the Commission was accepted in 1733.

The settlers or squatters in our territory affected by this important action were:

Joseph Brooks in the north-east part of the town.

Jeremiah Omstead, who received a Hundred acre lot adjoining the farm of his father Jabez Omstead, which latter comprised the Hollingsworth Grant.

Jeremiah in 1738 sells this farm, described in the deed as the 100 acre lot granted him by the General Court in 1733, to Noah Colton;—"Bounded W. by my father's farm commonly called Wear River Farm, & South in part on Ware River, from a great red oak tree marked a little above the Old Bridge Spot to a little heap of stones six rod above the foot of the new Bridge, and bounded otherways by Common Lands as by y<sup>e</sup> survey of the lot on Record more particularly may appear."

Noah Colton in 1740 sells the same to John Post for £250. John Post sells the same to Alexander Mack Neill in 1744.

Isaac Magoon, Senior received a Hundred acre lot, bounding northerly on the Read Manour, including his house and improvements. Isaac Magoon, Junior likewise received one hundred acres which he had purchased of the claimers. These farms were situated just by the south-east corner of the Manour, and were annexed to Ware in 1761.

Steward Southgate was to "have a Hundred acre lot, to be laid out on Ware River and Esq. Read's Tract of Equivalent Land, at y<sup>e</sup> south-east Corner thereof, extending easterly, and southerly in regular form so as to make up y<sup>e</sup> complement of a Hundred acres."

So happy were the inhabitants of the tract at the equitable settlement of the affair that the Proprietors of the Common and Undivided Land in the Elbow Tract, on June 3, 1735,

Voted, That there be granted and laid out to Eben<sup>r</sup> Burrill, Esq<sup>r</sup>., Col. John Alden and Mr. Samuel Bradford who were the Hon<sup>bl</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> of the Gen<sup>l</sup> Court for Viewing and Determining the Grant of this Elbow Tract; to each of them an Hundred acre Lott in any of the Common Land that was added to the Tract since it was surveyed by y<sup>e</sup> former Claimers; as a Grateful Acknowledg<sup>mt</sup> of their Great and Good Service to the settle<sup>mt</sup> in Despatching y<sup>e</sup> affairs thereof by a full and particular Report, superceding the charge and Difficulty of a Com<sup>tee</sup> of Regulation.

The £500 debt was a sore burden to the settlers. They simply could not pay it in addition to the charge and expense of the Committee, which amounted to over £67, various "past charges," and "necessary public charges." Their total indebtedness amounted in fact to £1,271.

No attempt was made to raise the £500. Petitions were sent to the General Court for the abatement of the penalty, or failing that, for an extension of time. The condition of the settlement was laid before the Court, showing the necessity of some measure of relief. But the Court was firm, and only granted a two years' extension of time for the assessment and collection of the amount.

The two years having expired with nothing done, the General Court ordered the appointment of three disinterested men to assess and levy the amount in accordance with the original order. This was in 1739. The whole business was to be closed up by the end of May, 1741.

The order seems to have created somewhat of a panic, and called forth a most humble petition from the Proprietors, setting forth clearly the impossibility of raising the sum without ruining the "little poor Infant Plantation."<sup>1</sup>

Matters dragged along, and in 1743 the General Court ordered "that the Warrant be so far stayed as that they be obliged to pay only one quarter part forthwith, and the other three quarters in three equal payments, viz. in the three years 1744, 1745 and 1746."

<sup>1</sup> The petition may be found quoted in Temple's "History of Palmer."

1871

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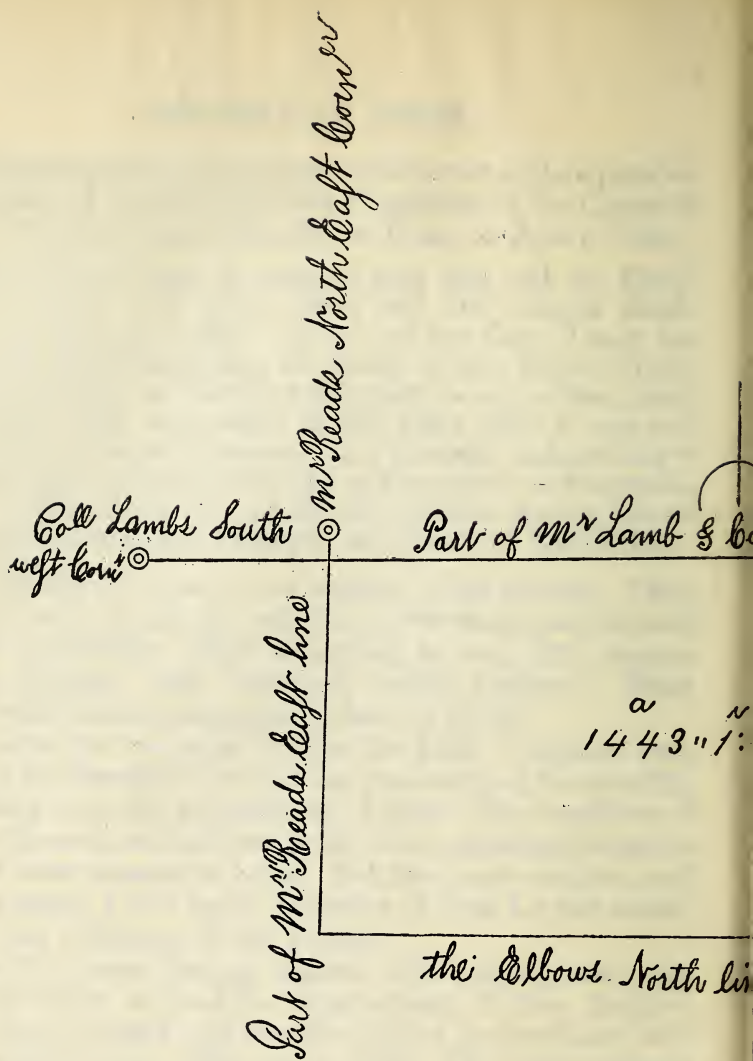
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Hampsh<sup>r</sup> Co: Sept<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1733 William Clemans & Jonathan Rood per  
made Oath that in carrying the chain for the Sur  
propriated Lands belonging to the Prov<sup>t</sup> of the M  
ed in the Above Platt they would act Truly & fr  
cording to the best of their Skill & understand  
les<sup>m</sup>



their South line

ft & west

appearing  
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us<sup>th</sup> includ-  
thy Ac =

Dwight Pac: justit<sup>a</sup>

libert's "Early Grants"

a monument of stones  
at the North west corner



A Plat of fourteen Hundred & forty three acres & one quarter of the unappropriated Land belonging to the province of the Massachusetts: Situate in the County of Hampshire, Bounded Eastward [\*] by ware river, North by the Land lately Granted to Co<sup>l</sup> Lamb and Com<sup>o</sup> [\*] West by land belonging to John Read of Boston Esq: & South by the Elbows So Called Survey'd p<sup>r</sup> the Needle of the Instrumēt [\*] by the Scale of 160 perch in an inch Oct<sup>r</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 1733

p<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Dwight Surv [\*]

Hampsh<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1733 the Above S<sup>d</sup> Nath<sup>n</sup> Dwight personally appearing made Oath that in Surveying the Land described by the Above S<sup>d</sup> Plat he Acted truly & Indifferently According to the best of his skill & Judgment

Cor<sup>m</sup> Tim<sup>o</sup> Dwight Pac. [\*]

• Manuscript mutilated.

Mass. Arch. vol. 46, p. 60



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The proportional assessments were made, and those who could paid them. In other cases land was sold by the sheriff, ten or fifteen acres as the need might be, until by voluntary payments or by enforced collection the debt was eventually discharged.

### THE MARSH TRACT

A year after the first move of the "squatters" as described above, a similar move was made by another group of "squatters" on land north of the Elbow Tract, the section comprising the north-east portion of our present town.

Under date of Oct. 3, 1733, we find the following:

To his Excell<sup>y</sup> Jonathan Belcher Esq<sup>r</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> & Com<sup>d</sup> in Chief of His Majest<sup>s</sup> Prov<sup>n</sup> of the Massachus<sup>ts</sup> Bay in New England &c: The Hon<sup>ble</sup> His Majest<sup>s</sup> Council & House of Representatives in Gen<sup>l</sup> Court assembled at Boston Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1733. The petition of us The Subscribers Humbly Sheweth That your Petit<sup>ns</sup> are now actually dwelling on a Tract of the unappropriated Lands of this Prov<sup>n</sup> in the County of Hampshire bounded South partly by That Tract of Land called the Elbows & Partly by Brookfield Township, East by Ware River, North by Land lately Granted to Co<sup>l</sup> Lamb & Comp<sup>a</sup> & West by that Part of the Equivalent Lands belonging to John Read of Boston Esq<sup>r</sup>, Containing fourteen Hundred & forty three Acres, as p. a Plat of s<sup>d</sup> Land herewith Presented more Particularly appears, & on S<sup>d</sup> Tract of Lands we have lived Some of us three Years<sup>1</sup> where we have spent the most of that little Substance we had, & we Assure your Hon<sup>rs</sup> it was not the Extraordinary goodness of Quality of the Lands, that moved us to go up on it, for A Considerable Part of S<sup>d</sup>. Tract is Ledges of Rocks, & Very Rockey, so as to render it unprofitable & almost Useless (as those that are Acquainted with it can Testifie) but that which induced us to Settle on it was our necessity, our principle dependance for the Support of our Selves & Families is Husbandry & we had not a foot of Land to Imploy our Selves & families upon, were Exposed to Idleness & pinching Want, & being then unsensible how highly the Court resented Such a way of Setling,

<sup>1</sup> As a matter of fact some of the signers of this petition had been on the land more than six years, as will be explained later.

& Apprehending that the principle thing Insisted on was that there Should be no Trading, or Stock Jobbing, but an Actual Settlement, & Improvement in Husbandry, by the Grantees themselves with which we were ready to Comply. Wherefore being thus unhappily intangled on S<sup>d</sup> Land with great Submission, we most Humbly move that this Great & Hon<sup>able</sup> Assembly, would condescend to Exercise their Charity & Pitty towards us, in Granting us (out of S<sup>d</sup> Land including the Spots we have Already begun on) so much land as may be a Competency for us to Improve for A lively hood, for our Selves & Children, we have no thot of any Other but with Submission to spend the remainder of our Lives and Substances on the Spot, are Content & ready Submit to Submit to any Injunctions or Limitations within our reach, this Great & Hon<sup>able</sup> Court Shall think meet to Lay upon us, who as in Duty bound Shall Ever Pray &c

John <sup>his</sup> X clemons  
mark

Thomas marsh

William Clemmans

Jonothon <sup>his</sup> X Rood

Judah Marsh  
<sup>mark</sup>

The petition was not granted at once, but a Committee was appointed to report to the next session of the Court upon the matter. In January, 1737, it was:

Read and Ordered that the petition be revived & that the plat be accepted and the Lands therein delineated and described be & hereby are confirmed to the said Thomas Marsh, William Clements, John Clements, Jonathan Rood, Judah Marsh & Samuel Marsh their heirs & assigns respectively provided each of the Grantees do within the space of ffive years from this date have Six Acres of the granted premises brought to English Grass, or broke up by plowing, and each of them have a good dwelling House thereon of Eighteen feet square and seven feet stud at the least & each a ffamily dwelling therein; that they Actually bring to the settlement of y<sup>e</sup> said lands by themselves or their Children as abovesaid, provided also the plat exceeds not the quantity of fourteen hundred and forty three Acres and does not interfere with any former Grant. & also that the Grantees



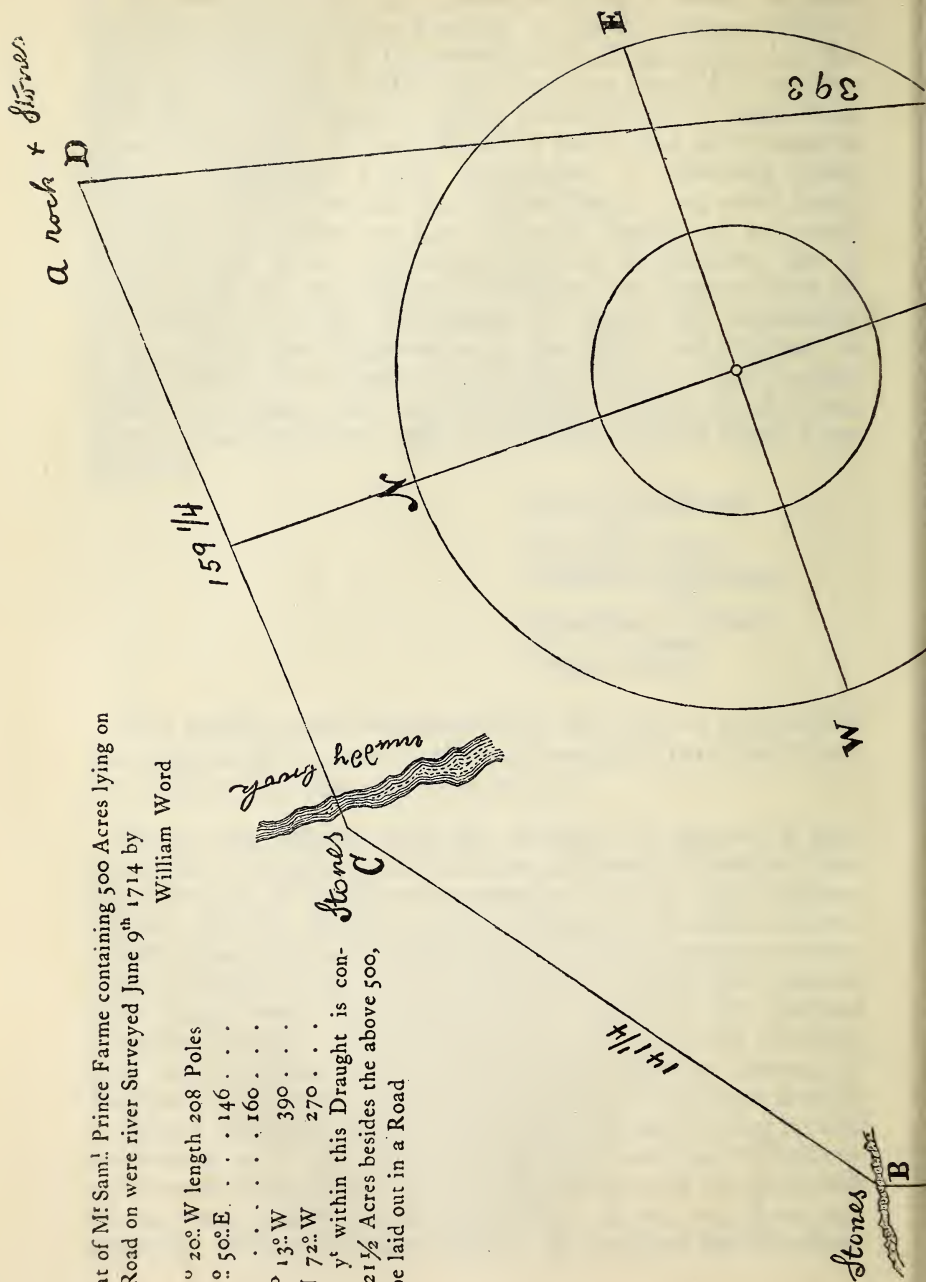


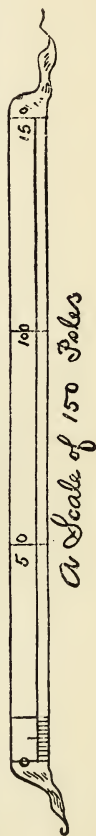
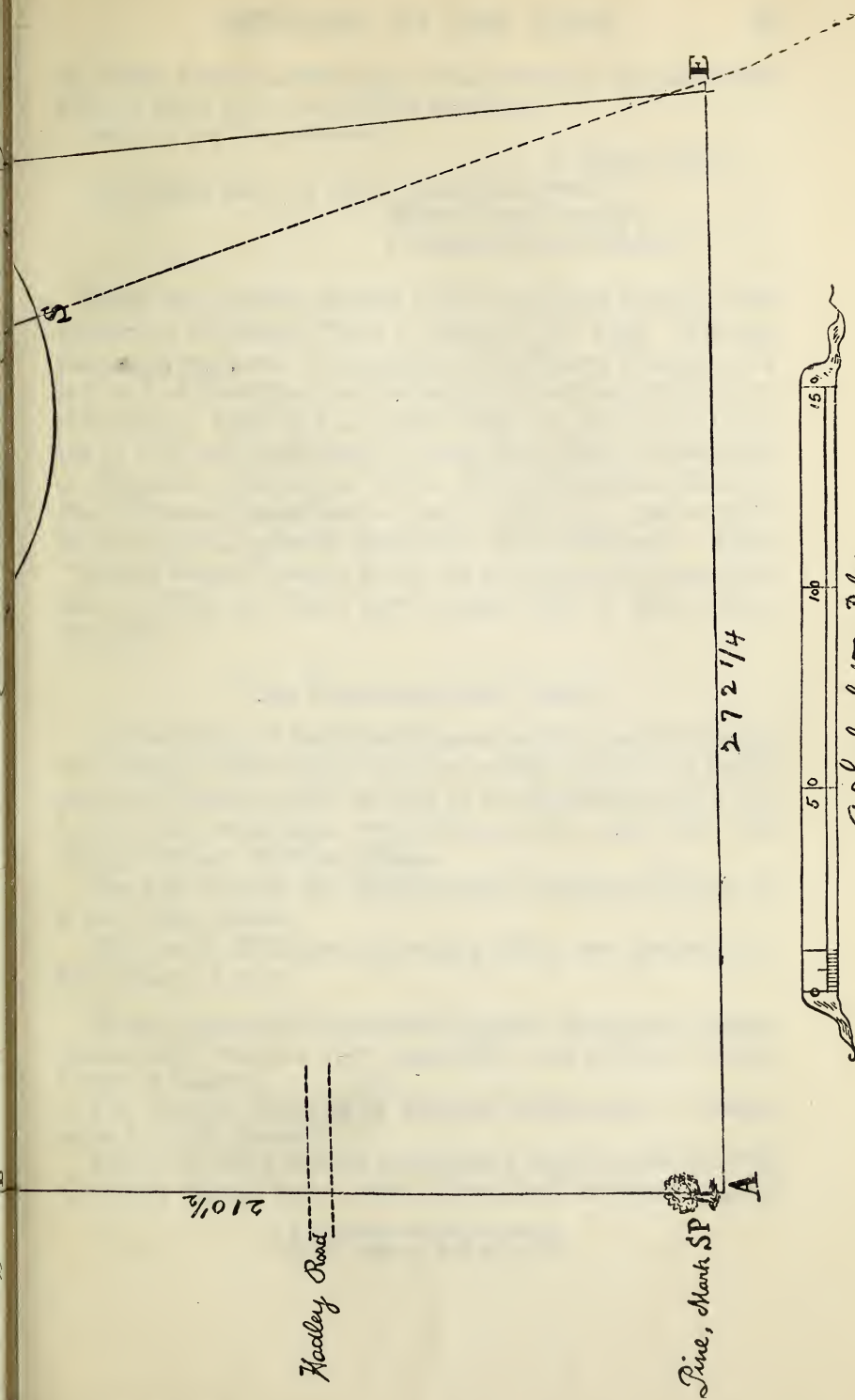
A Plat of M<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup>. Prince Farme containing 500 Acres lying on  
Hadly Road on were river Surveyed June 9<sup>th</sup> 1714 by

William Word

A B,	N <sup>o</sup> 20 <sup>o</sup> W	length 208	Poles
B C,	N <sup>o</sup> 50 <sup>o</sup> E.	. . . 146	. . .
C D,	E . . . . .	160	. . .
D E,	S <sup>o</sup> 13 <sup>o</sup> W	390	. . .
E A	N 72 <sup>o</sup> W	270	. . .

Note y<sup>e</sup> within this Draught is con-  
tained 21 1/2 Acres besides the above 500,  
for to be laid out in a Road







do within twelve months pay to the province treasurer ffive pounds Each for y<sup>e</sup> use of this province <sup>1</sup>

Sent up for Concurrence

J. Quincy Sp<sup>kr</sup>

In Council Jan<sup>ry</sup> 4, 1737 Read & Concur'd

Simon Frost Dep Sec<sup>ry</sup>

Consented to J. Belcher <sup>2</sup>

From the petition already quoted we learn that the first settlers on the Marsh Tract "squatted" by 1730. Whether they were regarded as belonging to the Elbows Plantation or not, and whether they bore any share of taxation is difficult to determine. They had no status whatever until after October of 1737, nor does that Act join them either to Hardwick or Kingston. As late as 1741 a deed of Jonathan Rood to Paul Thurston describes the land as lying in "a place called Muddy Brook, between Hardwick and the Elbows." These "Muddy Brook" people led in the movement for incorporation in 1742, and their land became part of Ware River Precinct.

#### THE HOLLINGSWORTH GRANT

As the history of the Read Manour is the most interesting on account of the unique features which marked its settlement and development, so that of the Hollingsworth Tract is the most important, comprising, as that tract does, the entire territory of Ware Village.

The first steps in the Hollingsworth Grant were taken at a very early period.

On Nov. 8, 1673, the following petition was presented to the General Court.

To the honoured Governour Deputie Governour Magistrates and Deputies Now assembled and holding General Court in Boston.

The humble Petition of Richard Hollinworth of Salem most humbly sheweth

That your most humble Petitioner's ffather came into this Countrey about forty yeares Since and brought a great

<sup>1</sup> For further location see maps.

<sup>2</sup> Mass. Archives, Vol. 46, p. 61.



ffamily with him and a good Estate And being the first builder of vessells being a ship-carpenter was a great benefit to this Countrey and as great or greater then anyone in the infancie of the Countrie of a private man as it is fully knowne yett gained not himselfe an Estate but Spent his owne that he brought and Notwithstanding all his Service and the largenes of his family being twelve in Number, he never had more granted him by the Countrie but fortie one Acres of upland and not one Acre of Meadow and the land lying Soe remote from the towne of Salem it proved little worth to him or his and none of his Children have ever had anything but have lived by their Labour with God's blessing and your petitioner hath used the Maretan imploym<sup>t</sup> and through many Dangers and with much Difficultie gotten a livlyhood for himselfe and his family and being brough very Low by his loss by the Dutch taking all from him is constrained to apply himselfe unto yo<sup>r</sup> Selves whom God hath Sett as ffathers of this common wealth

And Doth most humbly beseech you Seriously to consider the premisses and if it may stand with your good likeing and Charitie to grant unto him a Competent parcell of land that he may Sitt Downe upon with his family — vizt. his wife and six children for he would leave the Seas had he any competencie of land whereby with his owne in Dustry and Gods blessing he might mainetaine his family And he shall take it as a great favor And as in Dutie bound shall ever pray &c.

In answer to this pet the deputyes Judge meet to graunt the pet<sup>r</sup> five hundred Acres of land where he can find it free from any former graunt, o<sup>r</sup> Hono<sup>r</sup><sup>d</sup> Mags<sup>ts</sup> consenting hereto.

William Torrey Cleric

8 : 11 : 1673

Consented to by the Magis<sup>ts</sup> Edward Rawson

Secret.<sup>1</sup>

In ans<sup>r</sup> to the petition of Richard Hollingsworth the Court judgeth it meet to grant the petitioner five hundred acres of land where he can find it free from any former grant Jan. 6 1673-4 Records of Mass. Vol. 4 part 2 1661-64 p. 576.

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Archives, Vol. 59, p. 127; Hyde, "Historical Address," pp. 10, 11.

The following Order pass'd in Council, & Concur'd by the Represent<sup>ves</sup> Viz.

Upon Representation of a Grant made by the General Court of the late Massachusetts Colony in the year 1673, of Five Hundred Acres of vacant Land to Rich<sup>d</sup> Hollingsworth, & Assign'd by his Heirs to Samuel Prince;

Ordered in case there be no Record of the Laying of it out, That there be a Survey of Five Hundred Acres in some of the vacant Lands within the late Colony of the Massachusetts, & Reported to this Court for Confirmation.

Consented to J. Dudley <sup>1</sup>

It may be seen from the above that Hollingsworth never located his grant, but that his heirs disposed of the same to Samuel Prince, who in 1714 proceeded to have the tract surveyed. This was two years earlier than the survey of Mr. Read's 10,000 acres.

A description and plot of the grant as located is preserved in the Massachusetts Archives:

A plat of Five Hundred Acres of Land presented by Samuel Prince lying upon Hadly Road on Ware River, surveyed by William Ward Survey<sup>r</sup> being a Grant of that Quantity of Acres by the General Assembly to Richard Hollingsworth in the year 1673: Voted a Concurrence with the Order pass'd thereon in the House of Represent<sup>ves</sup> Viz.

Ordered that the Plat on the other Side be allowed & confirmed as the Five Hundred Acres of Land granted by this Court to Richard Hollingsworth Anno 1673, If that Grant has not been laid out before, and this Plat does not interfere with any Prior Grant —

Consented to, Jun. 14 — 1715

J. Dudley.<sup>2</sup>

So Prince came into possession of a definite farm, but he never settled upon it, selling it shortly after to Thomas Clarke of Boston, who evidently purchased it as a speculation.

Neither the deed of the Hollingsworth heirs to Samuel Prince, nor of Prince to Thomas Clarke, appears to have been registered; but we find on record <sup>3</sup> the sale of the land

<sup>1</sup> General Court Records, Vol. VIII, B. p. 75 (June 9, 1708).

<sup>2</sup> General Court Records, Vol. IX, p. 396; Mass. Archives, Plans and Grants, Vol. I, p. 281.

<sup>3</sup> Springfield Registry, Book E, p. 409.

in 1728 by Thomas Clarke to Jonas Clarke for £320, no mean price for an unimproved tract at that period.

To all People unto whom this Present Deed of Sale shall come, Thomas Clark of Boston in ye County of Suffolk in New England Merchant sendeth greeting; Know ye that for & in consideration of the sum of Three hundred and twenty pounds to me in hand well and truly paid at and before the delivery of these presents by Jonas Clark of Boston aforesaid Brazier; the Receipt of which sum to full Content and Satisfaction is hereby acknowledged: I the sd. Thomas Clark have given Granted Bargained Sold Conveyed & Confirmed, & by these presents, do give grant bargain sell convey & confirm unto the sd. Jonas Clark his heirs & assigns forever, all that my certain tract or parcell of land scituate lying and being within the province of the Massachusetts Bay, in the road from Brookfield to Hadley. Containing by estimation five hundred acres more or les<sup>s</sup>, as the same is Delineated and Described in a plann there<sup>s</sup>, on file among the records of the General Court or assembly of this province; which sd. land upon Wednesday the twenty fifth of May was allowed and confirmed as the five hundred acres of land Granted unto Richard Hollingsworth, ann<sup>ed</sup> 1673; by the sd. General Court and is the same land which the sd. Hollingsworths heirs sold lately unto Samuel Princh late of Rochester yeoman; of whom I purchased the same together with all & singular the trees woods underwood; profits priviledges & appurtenances to the sd. granted land, belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the reversion & remainders thereof; To Have & To Hold the sd. given & granted land & premisses with the appurtenances unto the sd. Jonas Clark his heirs and assigns forever; to his and their only sole and proper use benefit and behoofe from henceforth & forevermore; and I the sd. Thomas Clark for my self my heirs executors and administrators do covenant promise grant & agree to & with the sd. Jonas Clark his heirs executors administrators and assigns by these presents in manner following; that is to say; That at & untill the time of the ensealing & delivery of these presents I the sd. Thomas Clark am the true sole & lawfull owner of the sd. granted land, and premisses; having in my self full power and lawfull authority to give grant bargain sell convey & dispose thereof in manner as aforesaid, the same being free



& clear and clearly acquitted and discharged of & from all & all manner of former & other gifts grants bargains sales leases mortgages wills entailes & incumbrances whatsoever; & I the sd. Thomas Clark for me my heirs executors & administrators do further covenant and grant to & with the said Jonas Clark his heirs & assigns by these presents to warrant & defend the sd. granted land & premisses unto him & them for ever; against the lawfull claims & demands of all other persons whomsoever; In witness Whereof I the sd. Thomas Clark have hereunto sett my hand & seale the twenty fifth day of January in the second yeare of his Majesties Reigne; annoqe Domini; one thousand seven hundred & twenty eight.

Signed Sealed & Delivered

in presence of us

John Jeffries } Thomas Clarke & Seale  
Joseph Frost }

Received the day & yeare above written of Mr. Jonas Clark the sum of three hundred & twenty pounds in full for the land sold him; pr me;

Thomas Clark.

In the following year the same tract was conveyed to Jabez Omstead of Brookfield for £400, at a handsome profit to Jonas Clarke.

A careful study of the Hollingsworth Tract has brought the writer to an unexpected conclusion in regard to its original location. The plan of Mr. Samuel Prince's farm, surveyed in 1714, gives but two important landmarks by which to determine its location, Muddy Brook and the Hadley Road. One naturally asks why the Ware River was not indicated on the plan, for that is a landmark about which there never could be any question. If the surveyors crossed the river in measuring off the tract they could hardly have failed to indicate it. So the question arises, did they cross the river? Following the specifications given on the plot, and drawing the Prince Farm to the scale of a map of the whole town, it immediately becomes apparent that if Muddy Brook entered the farm at the point indicated by the survey, the farm would not include the falls of the river. Furthermore, when the Hadley Road was projected in



its most ancient position, running straight across the town, or as nearly so as possible, from the narrows of the Ware River to Swift River Bridge, it was found that the two landmarks corresponded, the Hadley Road leaving the Prince Farm just where the latter touched the edge of the Manour (though the Manour was not plotted until nearly two years later). Thus locating the farm by the brook and the road, we find that it does not reach to the Ware River at all.

Samuel Prince, for whom the plat was made, sold the farm to Thomas Clarke, and he in turn sold it to Jonas Clarke. Thus it had changed hands twice before it was bought by Jabez Omstead; and Omstead was the first to locate on the tract, doing so just fifteen years after the plat was drawn. It is not likely that a single one of the corner bounds was recognizable after so many years, and the farm had to be practically relocated. What more natural than that Omstead should have run his lines so as to include the most desirable territory that was available? As a matter of fact, he did run them so as to include the falls of the river.

The later survey of 1742 of the Marsh Tract and part of Kingston locates the Omstead farm, not where theoretically it should be, but where it actually was, for Omstead had then been in possession twelve years. Instead of the Hadley Road running through the middle of the farm, as indicated in the plat of 1714, it actually ran along its northern boundary.

Tradition has it that Jabez Omstead built a house just on the west side of Ware River at the end of the ancient bridge above the village. The cellar-hole, long an object of interest and curiosity, has recently been filled up in grading for the road through Grenville Park. Great quantities of ashes mixed with the earth about the spot lead to the speculation that Jabez set up a leach near his house for the manufacture of potash, — an industry pursued by the early settlers in their spare time to a considerable extent.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jabez sold his farm in Brookfield July 9, 1729, which helps us fix the date of his removal to Ware. Apparently a later house was erected east of the Bank — "It was a large two story house, called 'the Great House,' and was standing when the first movements were made to erect factories here in 1813. Mr. Demond occupied it for a year or more, and it stood till 1821." Hyde, Hist. Add.



A Plan of a tract of Land Situate in the County of Hampshire in His Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England (viz) 1443<sup>a</sup> - 1<sup>r</sup> - 27<sup>pr</sup> a Countrey Grant Belonging to Thomas Marsh and Comp<sup>ny</sup> Bounding Northerly on Hardwick Westerly on John Read Esq<sup>r</sup> His ten thousand acres Southerly on Kingston & Easterly on Ware river also 2959 acres 2 roods and 25 rods out of Kingston Exclusive of Jabez Omstedts farme the said Kingston Land bounds Northerly on Thomas Marsh & Comp<sup>ny</sup> aforesaid West on Esq<sup>r</sup> Reads Land and runing East by the Neadle from Esq<sup>r</sup> reads South East Corner till it Strickes Western Line as may be Seen in the plan and East Bounding by Brookfield Line also a farme which belongs to Joseph Brooks Jun<sup>r</sup> which Lies for Sixty acres within the Bounds of Brookfield on the West Side of Ware river also a Line Drawn Et from Esq<sup>r</sup> Reads South West Corner at Swift river through Kingston Et by the Neadle till it Strikes Western Line Containing 489<sup>a</sup> - 1<sup>r</sup> - 20<sup>p</sup>

Surveyed Nov<sup>r</sup> 25 and 26 - 1742 p Nath<sup>l</sup> Dwight Surveyor Chainman & Surveyor under Oath Plated by a Scale of 240<sup>pr</sup> to one inch

6 1/2" wide  
8 1/2" high  
bound

EA by the Neadle from Esq<sup>r</sup>

288  
289

Shower Wash  
Camp 1443-1-27<sup>th</sup>

2959-2-20<sup>th</sup>  
Belonging to Kingston

Unsettled  
521-1/2

Brookfield line

a heap of stones  
at the corner  
of the line

489-1-20<sup>th</sup>

to corner to the line

new  
way to  
ham

of the river

Brookfield line

Brookfield line

288  
289





To Jabez Omstead is due the credit for establishing the first mills, locating them at the point in the river now occupied by Stevens's dam. There are no means at hand for determining the date of the establishment of Omstead's Mills. Hayward's Mill in Brookfield was set up before 1708; a grist-mill was put in at the falls in Western (now Warren) about 1720. In 1731 a saw-mill was in operation at the outlet of Potaquattuck Pond (Forest Lake) and a grist-mill in 1737. In 1736 a grist-mill was erected on Steward Southgate's mill-lot on the Ware River, south-west of Potaquattuck Pond. It is supposed that Omstead's Mills antedated these last-named, and were the first mills erected on the Elbow Tract.

The earliest reference to them that I have found occurs in a deed dated 1743, when Jabez, "in consideration of the tender respect I bear unto my loving son Israel Omstead," gives him  $94\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land "on the East side of Ware River, beginning at the end of the bridge below the mill." Nine years later, in 1752, Jabez Omstead for £50 sells to Job Lane of Brookfield,

the one half of my Grist-mill and Stream on Ware River at the falls where the Mill now stands with all priviledges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining.

April 2, 1752.

Jabez <sup>his</sup> × Omstead

Martha <sup>mark  
her</sup> × Omstead  
<sup>mark</sup>

Jabez Omstead died in 1753. In 1759 certain of his heirs, Noah Gilbert and Sarah Gilbert, husbandman and spinster, both of Ware, for £233,,6,,8, sell to Isaac Magoon the tract known as the Omstead farm, "with appurtenances and privileges to the same belonging, viz. House and Barn, Saw mill and Grist mill with all the appurtenances to them belonging." Exception is made of the rights and titles of the heirs of Martha Omstead, wife of Thomas Hammond, and of Thankful Omstead, wife of Timothy Brown. Ruth Brown of Palmer in the same year sells to Magoon her share in "the estate of my honored Grandfather, Jabez Omstead

late of Ware River," for £2,,8. Quitclaims of the other heirs I have not found.<sup>1</sup>

Judging from the numerous traditions that have survived even to the present day, we may be sure that Jabez Omstead was indeed a man of importance. He was probably born in Connecticut about 1690. He was a soldier in Queen Anne's war from Deerfield, Massachusetts, in 1709. In 1712 he married Thankful, daughter of Thomas Barnes of Brookfield. Eleven children were born, part in Brookfield, part in Ware. A second wife, Martha, he married in later life.

In 1736, seven years after his removal from Brookfield to Ware, we find a petition of Jabez Omstead of Ware River praying for a grant of province land "in consideration for his good services in the late Wars against the French and Indians, and the Wounds he has received with the expense he has been at for the cure of them." It was ordered that 200 acres be granted him of the unappropriated lands, provided he returns a plot within twelve months for confirmation, and provided the petitioner, his heirs or assigns, "build on the premises within three years a house 18 feet square at the least, and 7 ft. stud, and break up or bring to English grass five acres, and fence the same." In 1738 Omstead prays for further time, "as through some disappointments he has not been able to lay out the same within the time limited." It was ordered "that the time be extended 12 months from the present, and two years to fulfill the conditions of the grant." I find no records to show that he ever located the grant.

In the Old French and Indian Wars (1744-49) Capt. Jabez Omstead was active, taking part in the expedition against Louisburg in 1745. He commanded the 10th Co. in Col. Samuel Willard's 4th Mass. Regiment.

The fact that he held a commission disposes of the tradition that Jabez had Indian blood in his veins, none but white men holding commands in the Indian Wars, — at least on the British side.

<sup>1</sup> Large portions of the original tract were sold at various times by Jabez Omstead, and much of his estate given to his children before his death.

Previous to this sale, in 1758, Jeremiah Omstead for £15 quitclaimed his share in the estate of Jabez Omstead, his father, to Noah Gilbert of Ware River Parish.

That he was a "mighty hunter" is altogether probable, for much of his life was passed in the woods. It is doubtful whether he could read and write. He usually made his mark to legal documents, yet signatures purported to be his are in existence, and we know that commissioned officers ordinarily made reports under their own hand.

The following anecdote is preserved by Mr. Hyde — "On the return of the army to Boston from Louisburg, he was invited with the officers to dine with Governor Shirley. The pudding he found to be too hot; and taking it from his mouth, and laying it upon the side of his plate, he said he would keep it to light his pipe with."

Following is the inventory of his estate, interesting as showing the substance of a well-to-do man of the period, and one of our earliest settlers. Appraisal dated April 10, 1753.

To

	£	s	d	q
Chairs	0	10	8	0
Cart boxes & hoops	0	10	1	3
Plough-irons	0	5	4	0
Fire peate & tonges	0	3	4	0
Betel rings & wedge	0	3	8	3
Stiliards	0	4	0	0
Pepper mill	0	5	4	0
Tramil pot & pot hooks	0	12	0	0
One Iron Kittle	0	3	4	0
One Brass Kittle	0	12	0	0
One scythe	0	1	4	0
Old puter	0	7	6	2
One wine glass	0	0	8	0
Woodden ware	0	8	0	0
One hetchel	0	6	8	0
two axes	0	4	8	0
One frying pan	0	3	4	0
Woodden dishes	0	1	8	0
One jugg	0	0	4	3
Three chairs	0	3	6	0
One table	0	3	4	0
One small table	0	2	4	3
One chest with draws	0	6	8	0
Books	0	2	0	0



## HISTORY OF WARE

One foot wheel	0	12	0	0
One woden wheel	0	1	4	0
Wool cards	0	1	4	1
One powder horn & bullet pouch	0	0	8	0
Two Sives	0	2	0	0
Baskets	0	1	4	0
One paire of shears	0	1	0	3
One pair of bridle bits	0	0	6	0
One bushel	0	1	4	0
One half bushel	0	0	9	2
One bed stead	0	2	8	0
One cheas press	0	1	4	0
One sickle	0	1	4	0
One Kneeding trough	0	1	0	3
Harrow teeth	0	3	2	1
One pitch fork	0	1	0	3
Knives	0	1	0	0
Flax	1	1	3	1
One Saddle	0	4	0	0
beds and beding	2	16	3	1
his wareing cloaths	2	11	8	3
four swine	1	6	8	0
One yoke of young oxen	7	6	8	0
One horse	5	6	8	0
One read cow	2	13	4	0
One Brown cow	2	5	4	0
One calf	0	8	0	0
The one half of a grist mill and priviledge for the same	40	0	0	0
The Dwelling house and the Barn and all his lands lying in one body	195	13	4	0
Sum total	269	16	3	0

Job Lane	}	Appraisers of said estate.
John Downing		
Samuel Davis		

## CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES

The Land Grants settle for us the original town bounds, but these bounds underwent important and interesting changes as the years went on. The first of these changes

was one comprising the Magoon farm. The history is briefly related in the General Court Records:

May 29, 1761. A Petition of Isaac Magoon and Alexander Magoon Sons and heirs to the whole of the Estate of Isaac Magoon late of Ware River Parish in the County of Hampshire deceased — Setting forth — That they own about four hundred Acres of Land in the Northerly part of Palmer, which lyes five miles distant from Ware River Meeting House, and the Road naturally good And Praying that they may be annexed to said Ware River Parish.

In the House of Representatives, Read and Ordered That the Petitioners serve the District of Palmer with a copy of this Petition, that so they may shew cause (if any they have) on the first Thursday of the next Sitting of this Court why the Prayer thereof should not be granted.

In Council Read and Concurred

Nov. 18 1761 A Petition of Isaac Magoon and Alexander Magoon — Praying as entered 29<sup>th</sup> May last that Four hundred Acres of land the Estate of their late Father Isaac Magoon, lying in Palmer may be annexed to Ware River Parish.

In Council Read again and it appearing that the Petitioners had pursued the order of Court with regard to notification. Ordered that the Estate mentioned in said Petition be, and it hereby is annexed to the Parish of Ware River and the Inhabitants or Possessors of the said Estate to do duty and receive priviledge therein.

In the House of Representatives Read and Concurred  
Consented to by the Governor <sup>1</sup>

This change accounts for the curious irregularity in Ware's southern boundary line.

More important than the land thus added to the township was the annexation of the Magoon family, several members of which had already partially annexed themselves; Isaac Magoon having bought the Omstead farm and the mills less than two years before. It was a sturdy Scotch-Irish family, one always to be reckoned with in affairs both of church and state, ever ready to "make trouble" if so moved. One member or another of the family was frequently

<sup>1</sup> General Court Records, Vol. XXIV, p. 110.

being disciplined in the church.<sup>1</sup> It is not recorded that the Palmer people protested in any way against this transfer of territory and of allegiance.

#### EAST OF WARE RIVER

The bounds of Ware on the east are thus given in the petition for incorporation in 1742. "On Brookfield to Wear River, thence on Wear River to Hardwick."

Now the town bulges out on the east side of the river. The addition of that tract to Ware took place in 1755, as may be seen from the following:<sup>2</sup>

The petition of Ebenezer Gilburd Henry Gilburd, Oliver Gilburd and Samuëll Densmore all of Brookfield Humbly sheweth that your memorialists have ever lived at a very great distance from the place of public worship in said town that we nor our families have not been able to attend Publick worship (w)her we have lived, But about half so far from hardwick or Ware River place of worship yet in the year 1749 we paid a heavy tax . . . etc. (Further reasons for being set off to Ware River Parish) . . . that we with our inhabitants be sett off from said town of Brookfield and be annexed to Ware River Parish in the County of Hampshire our situation from Ware River Parish Being almost three times so nere as to the meeting house in our said first parish . . .

In House of Rep. June 10 1755 Read and ordered that the petitioners serve the First parish in Brookfield also Ware River Parish with this petition that they may show cause why the prayer should not be granted.

Dec. 26 1755 — Read again.

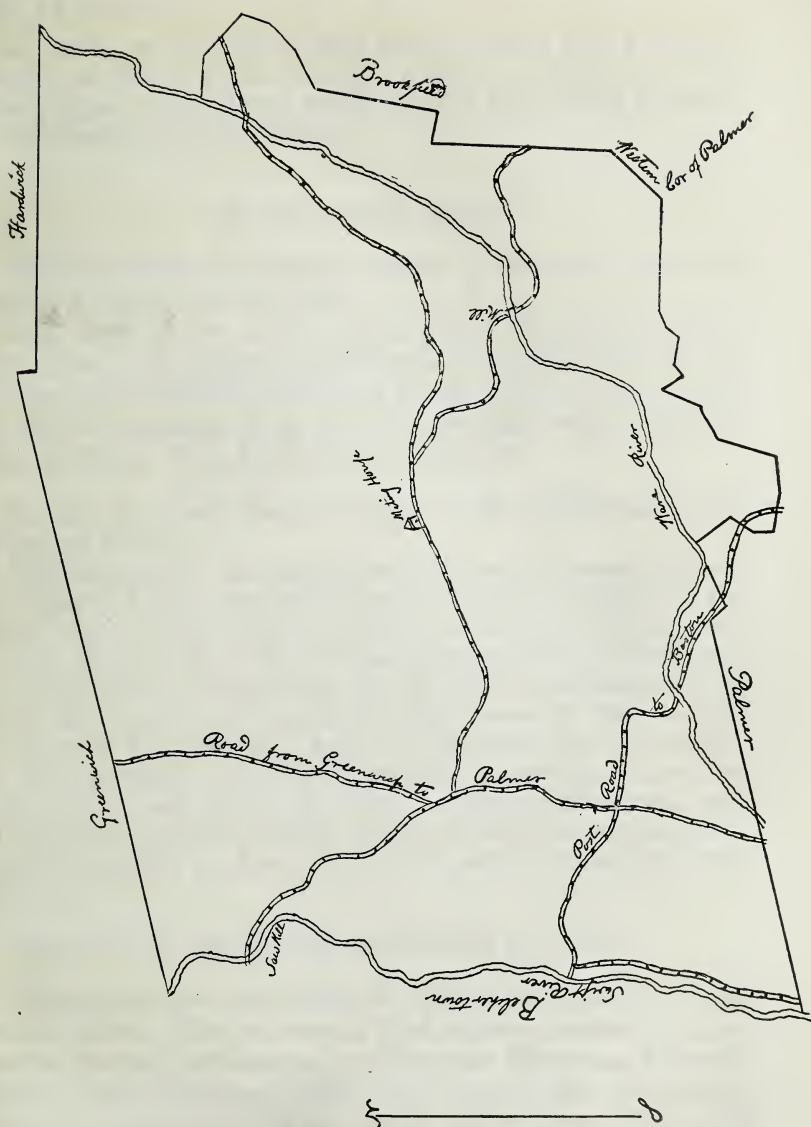
No answer having been received from Brookfield or Ware River, the petition is granted. "The petitioners with the estates where they live be annexed to said Parish at Ware River, there to do duty & receive privilege as other inhabitants there do."

In the house Read & Concurred.

Consented to by the Governor

<sup>1</sup> For example (one of many): May 21, 1790: "Voted to chuse a committee of two to go and converse with Isaac Magoon and wife for not attending Publick worship but seldom, and sundry other things." Also "to converse with Mary Ann Magoon."

<sup>2</sup> This petition escaped the notice of Mr. Gilbert. See "Early Grants," p. 43.



*Taken from a survey made in April, 1795*





Feb. 22, 1757 —

An order on the Court that these persons pay Province County & Town Taxes assessed since the dividing of said First Parish in said Town to the time of their being annexed to the Parish of Ware River.

### DANIEL CONEY FARM

The last piece of territory added to the town was the Daniel Coney farm, in 1823.

That farm in the south-east corner of the present town, which lies in the angles caused by the irregular lines on the eastern side, was the property of Daniel Coney, who secured in 1823 the passage of an act of Legislature which annexed him to Ware. The Act reads as follows:<sup>1</sup>

An Act to annex Daniel Coney, with his Estate, to the Town of Ware.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that Daniel Coney, with so much of his estate as is within the bounds of the Towns of Brookfield and Western, in the County of Worcester, be, and they are hereby set off from said towns and annexed to the Town of Ware, in the County of Hampshire; and he shall hereafter be subject to all the duties and entitled to all the privileges of an inhabitant of said Town of Ware: Provided however, said Daniel Coney shall be liable to pay all taxes that have been legally assessed on him, by said Towns of Brookfield and Weston.<sup>2</sup>

Approved by the Governor, February 8<sup>th</sup> 1823.

Three attempts were made to change our boundary lines which failed. The first was in 1825 when a petition was presented to the Legislature by Ebenezer Sherman, Edmund Pope, Snow Sherman, John Shaw and Josiah Woodward that a tract of land in the north-west corner of the town containing 488 acres, comprising the territory of what has of late been known as West Ware, be set off from Ware, and

<sup>1</sup> Gilbert, "Early Grants"

<sup>2</sup> Laws of Mass., Vol. LX, p. 114, chap. lxxvi.

annexed to Enfield. The reasons given are that the ordinary business of the petitioners is transacted in Enfield, the roads are better in that direction, and each of the petitioners lives nearer the meeting-house in Enfield than in Ware. A carefully elaborated table of distances is given with the petition, in which the differences are ridiculously small, varying for the different individuals from a few rods to a mile and a quarter.

A committee of the town of Ware consisting of Alpheus Demond, William Bowdoin and Homer Bartlett make formal objection to the change, replying that the reasons set forth by the petitioners are frivolous; that the town of Ware is none too large; that the change would upset the arrangements of School Districts; that the tract is bounded in such manner as to skilfully avoid its share of highways and bridges.

The petitioners were promptly granted "Leave to Withdraw."

In the same year, 1825, a petition was presented to the Legislature signed by Joseph Cummings, Jr., Samuel Gould, Downing Gould, John Gould, Benj. Paige and Alpheus Demond, requesting that certain lands which they owned in the north-easterly corner of Palmer, amounting to about 160 acres, be annexed to Ware, "that the line of Western and Ware may join so as to take the road into the towns of Western and Ware." An order of notice was passed, but the matter was referred to the next General Court. The petition was repeated in 1827. It appears from the records that the town of Ware opposed the petition, and the petitioners were granted "Leave to Withdraw."

The other attempt, equally unsuccessful, was that of Sylvester Bowen in 1851. His farm occupied the southern section of what was known as the Hardwick Gore.

The Gore is a long narrow strip of land lying east of the northern part of Ware, bordering on the Ware River. The south-west boundary stone of the tract stands in the centre of Quabbin Island, just below the old log bridge across the river. The tract contained about two hundred acres of land, and by some curious oversight had remained unincorporated until 1833. The few inhabitants, possessing no

town privileges, had voted for state officers at Hardwick, and were there assessed their state tax.

Attempts were made from time to time to annex the Gore to Hardwick, but the final accomplishment was not affected until Feb. 6, 1833.

The importance of the Gore today lies in the fact that nearly the whole of the village of Gilbertville has grown up upon it.

About one-third of the Gore, the southern portion, belonged to Sylvester Bowen. On Jan. 20, 1851, he petitions the State Legislature that his land, together with all the buildings, may be set off from Hardwick and annexed to Ware.

The Hardwick Selectmen remonstrate that

(1) But a few years since Bowen petitioned to be annexed to Hardwick, his land at that time belonging to no incorporated town.

(2) The expense to Hardwick of building roads to Bowen's property has been nearly \$1,500, which the town would not have been subject to had not s<sup>d</sup> Bowen with others been annexed to our territory.

(3) Bowen has been allowed his portion of school money from his own district, and permitted to use the same in Ware where he has been better accommodated.

(4) The territory is of value to us as a town, present and prospective, and as long as we have "*shook the bush*" we think we are entitled "*to the Bird.*"

(5) The change would require alteration of the County Line.

(6) There is no reason why Bowen's estate should not remain within its present incorporated limits.

Bowen is given "Leave to Withdraw."

The last boundary change of any sort was accomplished in 1908 when the zig-zag line between Ware and Palmer, left by the irregularity of the Magoon fences, was straightened somewhat, and simplified.



## IV

### THE PARISH

THE first move toward corporate life in any community of settlers was the establishment of public worship. The support of such worship was not a private and voluntary matter as it is today. Religion was a public institution, and its support by the citizens obligatory. A man was obliged to belong to some parish. John King, who built his log cabin on the Elbow Tract in 1716,<sup>1</sup> acknowledged a *quasi* residence in Springfield; *i.e.* had religious privileges there, it being the meeting-house nearest his dwelling-place. For though he was a squatter on Province land, he was required by law to attend religious worship with the organized church next to his abode.

The people who settled on what is now the territory of Ware were obliged to attend and support preaching at the Elbows, where the first meeting-house was erected in 1735 at what is now Palmer Centre. We know there had been regular pastoral ministrations for a number of years previous.

To form a parish, the consent of the General Court was required. Early in the spring of 1742 the families living in the remote northern portion of the Elbow Tract resolved to ask permission to establish and maintain public worship among themselves. The following petition tells its own story.

To his Excellency W<sup>m</sup> Shirley Esq. — Captain General and Governour in Chief, the honorable the Council and Representatives in General Court assembled 26<sup>th</sup> May 1742. The petition of Thos. Marsh and others to the number of 33 householders about & between Wear River & Swift River near Brookfield, humbly sheweth. That your Petitioners are settled on a tract of land bounded, beginning at

<sup>1</sup> Temple, "History of Palmer," p. 32.

the South West <sup>1</sup> Corner of the ten thousand acres of Equivalent Lands at Swift River, thence running due East to Brookfield bounds, thence on Brookfield to Wear River, thence on Wear River to Hardwick, thence on Hardwick to the ten thousand acres of Equivalent Lands aforesaid and thence on the bounds of the said said Ten thousand acres including the same unto the first mentioned boundary. They dwell at a great distance from any place of publick worship, most of them six or seven miles and therefore cannot enjoy that privilege in their present condition: but as their hearts are sincerely desirous of the public worship of God they persuade themselves they shall be able chearfully to bear the charge that will attend it. But as some of them belong to the town of the Elbows, some to Brookfield and the rest of them live on farms of the Province Grants they cannot properly and lawfully proceed to erect & maintain the public worship of God among them without the aid of this Court, & therefore Pray this honorable Court by a suitable Committee of this Court, to inquire into their state & circumstances & make them a separate & distinct Township or Parish & your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.

(Signed)

John Read, for the Pet<sup>rs</sup>

Thomas Marsh	Edward Ayers	Jacob Commins jun
Isaac Magoon	Isaac Magoon jun	Naum Davies
John Post	William Patteson	James Commins
Samuel Davis	Joseph Simonds	Joseph Marks Sen <sup>r</sup>
Jabez Omsted	Job Corly	Joseph Marks
Joseph Marsh	Samuel Marsh	Joseph Brooks
Richard Rogers	Judah Marsh	Bengman Shiple
Jacob Commins	Ephram Marsh	John Andrason
Samuel Allen	Jeremiah Omstead	Thomas Chapen
Paul Thurston	Israel Omstead	Daniel Houston <sup>2</sup>

In the House of Representatives June 8<sup>th</sup> 1742

Read & Ordered that Capt. Partridge & Capt. Converse with such as the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Board shall joine be a committee to

<sup>1</sup> The petition begs that the south bound be run east from the south-west corner of the Read Tract, while the report which was accepted actually runs this bound from the south-east corner, thus granting 489 acres less than was petitioned for. Mr. Hyde gives south-west corner in both cases, but in this is incorrect. — *General Court Records*, Vol. XVII (3), p. 529.

<sup>2</sup> The original petition is preserved in the State Archives. The signatures are here copied exactly from the original.

view the state & circumstances of the Petitioners, they giving seasonable notice to the Inhabitants or Proprietors of Brookfield & the Elbows (so called) & the Inhabitants of Western who may be affected thereby that they may be present at the meeting of said committee if they see cause: The Committee to report as soon as may be, what they judge proper for the Court to do in answer to this petition.

In Council: Read & Concur'd, and Joseph Wilder Esq<sup>r</sup> is joined in the affair

Consented to

W. Shirley

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 1742 Joseph Wilder Esq<sup>r</sup> from the Committee of both Houses on the Petition of Thomas Marsh & others gave in the following report vizt.<sup>1</sup> The Committee appointed on the Petitions of Thomas Marsh & others living near Wear River in the County of Hampshire have attended on said service, been upon the spot and viewed the Lands prayed for to be erected into a Township, inquired into the circumstances of the Petitioners, heard the objections of some of the Inhabitants of Kingston and are of opinion that the Petitioners at present are not in sufficient order to erect a Town with privileges &c.; but in as much as they live at a very great distance from any place of publick Worship and meet with great difficulty thereby, We are further of Opinion that the Petitioners living Northward of a line running due East from the South East corner of the land belonging to John Read Esq<sup>r</sup> to Western Line, be freed from all Taxes to any other place or Town during the pleasure of the General Court, so that they may be able to provide Preaching among themselves

In the Name and by Order of the Comm<sup>tee</sup>

Jos. Wilder

In Council; Read & Ordered that this Report be Accepted, and that the lands within the Limits above mentioned and the Inhabitants thereon be erected into a Precinct, and that the said Inhabitants have the Powers & Privileges which other Precincts do or by law ought to enjoy, and that they be and hereby are obliged to maintain the publick Worship of God among them in the support of a learned orthodox Minister.

In the House of Represent<sup>ves</sup> Read & Concurred

Consented to

W: Shirley

<sup>1</sup> General Court Records, Vol. XVII (3), p. 529.



It would appear from these records that the people to the south made little objection to the dismemberment of the parish already in existence at the Elbows. That such was not the case may be seen from the following:

The Memorial<sup>1</sup> of sundry of the Proprietors of the Elbow Tract in the County of Hampshire, Sheweth — That whereas we are informed that your Excellency and Honours appointed a committee to view a tract of land lying between Swift River and Brookfield, petitioned for by Thomas Marsh and others; and that s<sup>d</sup> committee have been upon the spott, to view the same: & understanding that part of s<sup>d</sup> Land is in our town bounds: and we having had no Notiss thereof only bi a few lines sent from s<sup>d</sup> committee to the Clerk of our town the day before s<sup>d</sup> committee viewed the same; and so having no opportunity to know how much of s<sup>d</sup> lands petitioned for belongs to our town; nor to offer our reasons and objections against said petition: We pray that y<sup>or</sup> Excell<sup>y</sup> & Hon<sup>rs</sup> would not proceed to act anything on s<sup>d</sup> Committee's Report concerning the same, until we have had opportunity to offer our reasons to the contrary.

Wm Pynchon, David Shaw, Barnard McNitt,  
John King, Samuel Shaw, James Brakenridge,  
John Thomson.

Elbows Tract, Oct. y<sup>e</sup> 30th, 1742.

The first warrant for a meeting of the freeholders is as follows:

Hampshire S. S. To Jacob Cummins, one of the freeholders, & Inhabitants Liveing on the land in said County, North ward of a line Run due East from the South East Corner of the land belonging to John Read Esq. to Western line, being the land Petitioned for by Thomas Marsh and others, and set of a Separate Precinct, by the General Court of this Province, at the last General Court.

Whereas you the said Jacob Cummings, Thomas Marsh, Jabes Omstead, Isaac Magoon, Joseph Simonds, Joseph Brooks, Wil'm Blackmore and Sam'l Davis, Some of the freeholders and Inhabitants Liveing In said Precinct, Haveing made application to me, that I would grant a warrant for the Calling of a meeting of the freeholders and other

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Archives.



Inhabitants of said Precinct to meet at the house of Jabe<sup>s</sup> Omstead, In said Precinct on the third tuesday of march next. at ten Clock, forenoon, then & there to transact and pase Proper votes on the following Particulars: viz,

1: to choose a moderator.

2dly: to Choose a Clark.

3ly; to Choose a Committee to manage the Publick affairs of said Precinct, Assessors, Treasurer, Collector In s'd Precinct, and all Neissary officers In said Precinct.

4thly; to grant such sum and sums of money, as are nesary for the defreying the Charges of said Precinct, past, and what shall be thought Proper in order to maintain the Publick worshep of god among them and other publick charges in said place for the futuer.

5ly; to agree and appoint what day of the month the annual meeting of the Inhabitants of s'd Precinct shall be: as in and by there application, under thare hand appear.

These are therefore in his Majesties name to will and Require you forthwith to Notifie the freeholders and other Inhabitants of s'd Precinct Qualified according to Law to vote in Town affairs, That they meet and assamble together at the time and place afore s'd, for the end and purpose afore s'd;

Given under myhand and seal at Springfield, this eighteenth day of Febuary, in the sixteenth year of his Maiesties Raigne, A'dom: 1742.

Wm. Pynchon, Just's Pace.

the inhabitants of this Place have been nottifide of this meating, according as the law dos dirict, by me, Jacob Cummings March the 15 day, 1743.

Jacob Cummings chosen moderator of s'd meting: John Post, chosen Clark: Jacob Cummings, first commity man; Eadward Ayers chosen a commity man: Joseph Simons, chosen a Commity man:

John Post, Eadward Ayers, & Joseph Simons, chosen assesars: Jacob Cummings chosen trysher: Samuel Davis chosen colector. Voted to Raise ten Pound & six shillings, to pay the charge of the committe, servairs, and chain-man, and for the warrant old tenour

Voted to Raise fourty Pound old tenour for to hire Preaching with. voted to have our anual meating on the second tuesday in march anually.

Samuel Hudgens and Isreal Omsted, chosen servairs of hiways.

Jacob Cummings, moderator.

Thus Ware is made a "Precinct" in technical language, though for many years deeds and other public documents refer to the place as "Ware River Parish," an equivalent term.

The immediate task before the inhabitants was the procuring of a minister, and the providing of a meeting-house. In 1743 it was "voted to hire Mr. Dickson for to Preach among us, until ye fourty pound we granted is spent." In the fall of the same year the question of a meeting-house was brought before the inhabitants at a legal meeting, but it was voted not to build at present. There were many questions to be settled as to ways and means, and the great question of location. The latter was indeed a burning question for a long period of time.

As might be expected, the records of the first years of the parish are fragmentary. Whether Mr. Dickson preached out the forty pounds or not, Mr. Mills was hired in the spring of 1743, possibly for a single Sunday at that time, though evidently he was preaching again in the early summer of 1744, at which time we find that the Rev. Mr. Mills "Refuses to tarry any Lounger with us." In the same year it was voted to hire Mr. Roson, Mr. How, and in 1745 Mr. Henry Cary. From the frequent bills allowed for boarding ministers it would appear that while there was no settled pastor, there was a fairly regular "supply" provided. In 1745 a committee was appointed consisting of Capt. Jabez Omstead and Mr. William Blackmer "to discourse with Mr. Read Esq. to see what incoredgement he will give towards the settlement of the gospel in this place, and give his advise whare the meeting house shall be."

Captain Omstead went to Boston at the expense of the Parish, and Mr. Read recommended a location. Nor was he backward in the matter of "incoredgement," for he deeds to Jabez Omstead, Gen., and Isaac Magoon, Yeoman, who lived near the Manour, and to William Blackmer, John Davis and Benjamin Lull who lived upon the Manour, as trustees,

the most eligible portion of the tract for church support, as follows:

The 6<sup>th</sup> lot from the North of the 4<sup>th</sup> Five of lots from the East . . . . extending South on a four rod Highway a hundred rod wide, & from thence west by south half a mile long, also part of the fifth lot near against the middle of that extending west & by south on the main road twenty rod wide, & from thence north twenty four rod long with the appurtenances; To have & to hold the sixth lot & part of the fifth lot afores<sup>d</sup> with the appurtenances to them the s<sup>d</sup> Jabesh Omstead, Isaac Mcgoon William Blackmer John Davis & Benjamin Lull & their heirs forever in special trust & Confidince for the only uses, Intents & purposes hereafter expresst, viz for the use of the first minister of God's Holy word & sacraments, who shall be freely chosen by the Inhabitants freeholders of the s<sup>d</sup> Manour & such others as the laws of the Government shall joyn in one parish with them, or by the major part of them, & thereupon be lawfully Instituted & ordained to the holy office there & such his successors forever in pure & perpetual alms, & for these special purposes viz the three acres part of the fifth lot afore s<sup>d</sup> for the founding & continuance of a Parish Church & Christian Burying place forever, & the sixth lot for a Glebe thereunto annexed for the Improvement of such Minister & his successors at their Discretion toward their Maintenance & support forever. In witness &c.  
19<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1748

Jn<sup>o</sup> Read & seal.

It is probable that he also promised a "settlement" for the first regular minister, which promise was redeemed by his heirs after his death.

Difficulties beset the officers of the newly formed Precinct when they endeavored to collect the rates voted for public use, and after some years of wrangling the whole matter was taken again before the General Court:

Timothy Brown of Ware River, for himself and as Attorney to several others of the Inhabitants of said Ware River so called in the County of Hampshire

Humbly Sheweth



That on the 4<sup>th</sup> of Dec.<sup>r</sup> 1742 in answer to the petition of Thomas Marsh and about thirty others Petitioners with Him it was ordered by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Court that the Petitioners in said Petition mention<sup>d</sup> & all the Lands therein described that are northerly of the South East Corner of the Lands belonging to John Reed, Esq. then of Boston, now Dec<sup>d</sup> should be erected into a Precinct & that the said Inhabitants should have the Power & Priviledges that other Precincts do or by Law ought to enjoy. That nevertheless many persons who since the Date of said order have settled upon the Ten Thousand acre Equivalent so called belonging to the Heirs of s<sup>d</sup> Mr. Read & as ye Petitioner supposes clearly included within the Limits of said Precinct have disputed their obligation to subject themselves to the votes or orders of said Precinct & pretend that they are not included therein, they construing the aforesaid order as not including any Part of said Farm of Mr. Read within the said Precinct from which great confusion has arisen among the said People & those Inhabitants at Ware River & such as on Mr. Read's Farm aforesaid are disposed to comply with the order of this Hon<sup>ble</sup> Court & to provide themselves with the advantages of the Gospel Ministry are greatly hindered and obstructed by those Persons above mentioned, by Means of which Difficulties and Disputes the said Precinct were necessitated to omit choosing any Parish Committee in March Last & have not had nor can have any Precinct Meetings in Consequence whereof they have been destitute of Preaching among them since Last March till the Last Sabbath, when some of the Inhabitants procur<sup>d</sup> a preacher by private subscription.

The Petition<sup>r</sup> therefore begs ye Hon<sup>le</sup> Consideration of the great Difficulties they are under respecting their Spiritual Priviledges & that if y<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>rs</sup> see Fit that y<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>rs</sup> would make a more Express & indisputable Determination of the Extent & Limits of the said Precinct & that the said Farm of Mr. Read may be all included in said Precinct & that they may be inabled speedily to call a Meeting of said Inhabitants in order for the Raising of Money to build a Meeting House & to support the public worship among them for the future or otherwise to grant them Relief under their Difficulties as to y<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>rs</sup> in your great wisdom shall seem meet & y<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>rs</sup> as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Timothy Brown.

In the House of Rep<sup>rs</sup> June 19, 1750.



Read and ordered that the Bounds be established as follows. Beginning at the South East Corner of Mr. Read's 10,000 Acres of Equivalent Lands so-called, from thence to run due East to Western Line, then Easterly to Brookfield line, thence on Brookfield line to Ware River, from thence on Ware River to Hardwick line, from thence on Hardwick line to the said Equivalent Land to the first mentioned Boundary including the whole of the said ten thousand Acres.

And whereas the said Parish have failed of choosing their Officers for the present year, Ordered that the Committee for the last year be & they hereby are impowered to Issue their Warrant to convene the Inhabitants of said Parish qualified by Law to vote &c. to choose Officers for the present year & to raise Sum or Sums of Money as shall be thought necessary to defray the Charges of said Parish.

In Council: Read & Concur'd — Consented to by the Lieu<sup>t</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup>.

It was not until 1750 that the site for the meeting-house was finally determined upon. Meeting after meeting was held, several in each year, and each meeting rescinded the vote of the previous one. Nathaniel Dwight, the surveyor, was employed to find the centre of the town. Committees were appointed to settle the vexed question. On August 9, 1750, four men were chosen, one from each of the four corners of the town; Daniel Allin from the north-west corner, Jeremiah Anderson from the north-east, Jacob Cummings from the south-east, and Joseph Scott from the south-west. It was specified that the agreement of three of these men should stand. Should there be no such agreement the committee should choose a "judisius" man in any of the neighboring towns to "decide the difference." This Committee reported that they had called in Mr. Jonathan Warner of Hardwick to decide the case, and expressed the opinion that the house should stand on the east side of Flat Brook, on a small knoll. This was promptly negatived at the adjourned meeting August 23, while a vote was passed "to set it on the County Road in the Center East and West." "That it shall stand on the most convenient place between Mr. Lulls' and Joseph Ayerses, Nere half way from each."

This raised a storm, and two days later a demand for a warrant was signed by ten influential citizens, the object being to reconsider the vote just passed. The warrant was issued and the meeting called at once. The vote of August 23 was reconsidered, and a new site chosen "on the westwardly side of Flat Brook . . . between Edward Ayer's and Samuel Smith's." And there it was built, thirty feet long and twenty-five wide, with fifteen-foot posts, to cost the sum of £30., 13., 4, all but £4 to be paid in labor, the latter sum being appropriated for nails. This for foundations and framing. In three months £35 additional was voted "to cover and finish the meeting house at the discretion of the com'ttee."

Meanwhile, although the burning question was the location of the meeting-house, there was the secondary one of the choice of a minister to occupy the pulpit. A Mr. Morton was hired for the winter of 1748, and by 1749 or 50 the Rev. Grindall Rawson was on the ground, for at least occasional services. At the meeting on November 26 it was "voted universaley to give a minister a call to settle," and on December 17 the Precinct or Parish chose Mr. Rawson at a salary of £45 lawful money in case he would accept the call. In addition to the annual salary there was "granted the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money for settlement, in case he shall settle with us, to be paid in materials for building, and in labor at money price." This was to provide him a house, for the location of which the Read heirs provided as follows:<sup>1</sup>

To all People to whom these Presents shall come Greeting, Know ye that we John Read & Ruth Hunn of the Town & County of Fairfield & Collony of Connecticutt, William Read of Boston in the Province of the Massachusetts Gent: Joseph Miller of Milton in s<sup>d</sup> Province Gent. and Abigail his wife, Charles Morris of Hopkinton in s<sup>d</sup> Province Esq<sup>r</sup> and Mary his wife, & Henry Paget of Providence in the Collony of Rhoad Island Gent. and Deborah his wife (which John William Ruth Abigail Mary & Deborah are Children & co-heirs of John Read late of Boston afores<sup>d</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup>.) For and in consideration of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr.

<sup>1</sup> Hamp. Co. Rec., Vol. 2, p. 107.

Grindall Rawsons Settling in the work of the Gospel Ministry on the Manour of Peace in the County of Hampshire in the Province afores<sup>d</sup>: & toward his Settlement there, Do Give Grant Convey & Confirm unto him the s<sup>d</sup> Grindall Rawson of s<sup>d</sup> Manour Clerk and to his Heirs and assigns forever, fifty acres of Land lying & being in s<sup>d</sup> Manour and is one half of the fourth lot of land from the South of the Second Teer of lots from the East, said lot being bounded Easterly by a four rod Highway one hundred rods in Weadth, and from s<sup>d</sup> Highway Extending west & by South half a Mile long the said fifty acres being the Southermost half of s<sup>d</sup> Hundred acres fifty rods wide & half a mile long. To Have & To Hold the above Given & Granted premisses with all the priviledges & appurtenances thereof to him the s<sup>d</sup> Grindall Rawson and to his Heirs & assigns forever, to his & their own proper use & Behoof: In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & Seals this 16<sup>th</sup> Day of Septem<sup>r</sup> A. D. 1751.

Signed by the heirs as above.

At an adjourned meeting held on Dec. 24 the annual salary was raised to the odd sum of £53,,6,,8, and firewood; to be again reconsidered within a month and fixed at £45 for the first two years, with a small annual addition until the salary should reach £60. The meeting adjourned to Feb. 11, 1751, when Mr. Rawson's answer in the affirmative was communicated to the parish as follows:

My Brethren:

Since you were so unanimous in your invitation of me to Settle with you in the work of the Gospel Ministry (there being not so much as one negative vote), upon Seriously addressing myself to the Throne of Grace, as I trust, for Direction in the great affair, after proper reflection, upon the difficulties you would like to be thrown into upon my leaving you; notwithstanding the great discouragement in regard to my outward subsistence at present, and the many Satisfactions of Life, of which I foresee I must deny myself, more I believe than you are sensible of, or in any ways necessary for me to recite, which have set very heavy upon my Mind, and have for a long time prey'd upon my Spirits, and had I have hearkened to the Struggles of Animal nature,



would Soon have determined me to have me to have left you, tho' in the greatest Confusion; yet, a Sense of Duty, and a desire of promoting your everlasting Peace and welfare, have counterpoised all other difficulties; so that I have concluded to comply with your request, and accept of your invitation; hoping that God in his Providence will so order it, that we shall be mutual Blessings to one another. And as it is not yours, but you that I shall seek, I hope you will be ready to contribute to me, at all times of your Temporals, as I shall be ready to do to you in Spirituals, to the utmost of my power, and have no greater Joy, I hope, than in promoting your good, and seeing you walk in the truth, and that I shall so walk before you in a Sober and Godly Life, that you may have me for an example, and, that, both in my Living and Preaching, I may set forward the Religion of Jesus.

Brethren pray for me, that I may be made a precious Gift of our ascended Saviour to you. I hope you will never do anything to weaken my hands or discourage my heart, (which I will assure you is almost dismayed already under the gloomy prospect,) nor expect perfection from me, for I am a man of like Passions, and subject to humane infirmities, which I hope you will ever be ready to cover, with a mantle of love,

And that you may behave yourselves, as becomes knowing, wise, and Discreet Christians, nothing wavering nor unsteady, shall ever be my prayer for you.

Grindall Rawson.

Peace. Feb. 11, 1750.

The ordination of Mr. Rawson was fixed for the following May, and the following invitation was sent to the neighboring churches:

The Brethren in Ware River to the Church in Hadlyme,  
Greeting:<sup>1</sup>

Whereas God of his great goodness has enclined our hearts to have the Gospel and the Ordinances of it Settled amongst us, (who have lived for some years, many of us, without the Stated Ministrations of them) and we have at length by the

<sup>1</sup> Oddly enough another Grindall Rawson was pastor of the Hadlyme Church from 1745 to 1777. He was probably an uncle of the Ware pastor.



advice of the neighboring Ministers, (as the law directs) proceeded with a great deal of unanimity to give Mr. Grindall Rawson, a call to settle with us in the work of the Gospel Ministry, and he having accepting our invitation, we have appointed Wednesday, the eighth Day of May, for his Ordination, and therefore desire the assistance of your Rev'd Pastor, with your Deligate to Set in Council, together with Other Ch'hs to Separate him to the work to which we have called him. Wishing peace to you, we ask your Prayers for us, your Brethren in the faith and Fellowship of the Gospel.

Voted the Rev'd Mr, John Chamble, pastor of the Church in Oxford.

the Rev'd Mr. Grindal Rawson, paster of ye Church in had-Lyme.

the Rev'd Mr. Robert Brick, paster of the 1st Church in Springfield,

the Rev'd Mr. Chaleb Rice, paster [of the Church in Sher-Bridge.

the Rev'd Mr. David White, paster of the Church in Hardwick.

the Rev'd Mr. Noah Mirick, paster of the 4th Church in Springfield.

the Rev'd Mr. Thomas Scinner, paster of the Church in Westchester, in Colchester,

the Rev'd Mr, Benjamin Bows, paster of the Church in Middle Haddam,

the Rev'd Mr, Isack Jones, paster of the Church in Westurn,

the Rev'd Mr. Palatiah Webster, paster of the Church in Quabbin.

Each with his delligate to be the ordination Council.

Jacob Cummings, Moderator.

The expenses of the Council, amounting to nearly £7, were borne by the parish. The sermon preached on the occasion was an able one:

The faithful Minister's Trials, Qualifications, Work, and Reward described: Or, A distinguishing Reward in Heaven, One Grand Motive Christ propounds to his Ministers, to animate them to constant Fidelity in their Work, amidst all Trials and Difficulties.

## A SERMON

Preach'd at the Ma'nor of Peace,  
in the County of *Hampshire*,  
On *May* the 9th, 1751.

At the

## ORDINATION

Of the Reverend

Mr. GRINDALL RAWSON.

By Thomas Skinner, A.M.

Pastor of the Second Church in Colchester.

Published at the Desire, and Expence of the Heirs of the late Honourable  
John Read Esq; and Others.

N.B. That several Passages Omitted in the Delivery, are now Inserted.  
[12 lines from the Scriptures.]

N. London, Printed and Sold by T. GREEN, MDCCLI.

The preacher introduces himself thus:

'Tis not any Fondness for appearing on this Solemn and Publick Occasion that has now brought me into the Sacred *Desk*; but the repeated Requests and Importunity of the Pastor Elect, who will therefore (I presume) suffer me (who have had some Experience of the Trials Ministers are Incident unto) to mind Him of some of the Difficulties, He must Expect to meet with in the Work, which (God willing) He is now Solemnly to be introduced into, and from what Quarters these will arise.

He then speaks of the difficulties in the field of ministerial work, and admonishes the people in the plainest terms. He pays a tribute to the Read family.

Had you been their natural Parents, and they the Children of your own Bowels, Methinks, you could not have Contributed much more Bountifully to their Assistance; in the great Work before them, of Settling a Minister, and Erecting an House for the Worship of God; which must have been very heavy in their low and infant State, on them, If not Insupportable, without your Help — And we hope you will still shew Kindness to this People, and to *him* who is now to be Introduced into the Pastoral Office among *them*.

It is safe to say that no more interesting and original character than Grindall Rawson was ever associated with Ware. He was a man of strange eccentricities and contra-

dictions; one who under favorable circumstances might have been a genius, but whose temperament foredoomed him to failure in the ministry.

The Rev. Augustus B. Reed, in his historical sermon preached on Thanksgiving Day, 1830, in the parish church, characterizes Mr. Rawson and his work as follows:

Rev. Mr. Rawson, the first pastor of this church, it is supposed, was a native of Hadlyme, Conn.<sup>1</sup> But little is known of him in this place. Traditional accounts represent him as a man of little seriousness, comeliness or refinement. The only relic of his labors I have seen is his answer to the call of the precinct. This, on the whole, manifests a very undue concern about worldly things, and yet some expressions in it seem to intimate that his sentiments were evangelical.

An impartial study of the man perhaps will not lead us to materially modify Mr. Reed's estimate, though it should enable us to recognize in Mr. Rawson a sincerity, a ready wit, and an inexorable will which in a more tactful person would have contributed to success. Grindall Rawson's letter of acceptance does indeed manifest some concern for worldly things, but hardly an undue concern, particularly in the light of after events. But in construing this letter, one must consider the times and the customs. The letter of acceptance of the Rev. Reuben Moss in 1792, urging that his salary be paid punctually, calls for no criticism, though expressed in terms no less explicit than those used by Mr. Rawson. The letter accepting the call to Ware is that of a man who shrinks from the hardships of isolation and poverty toward which his conscience is compelling him, — a poverty of home, surroundings, and society to which he was wholly unaccustomed. He was a man of gentle birth, a descendant of the noted Colonial Secretary, Edward Rawson. His education at Harvard, from which college he graduated in 1741, and later his marriage to Desire, daughter of Col. Joseph Thatcher, by which he became allied to one of the most aristocratic families of the time, sufficiently vouch for his refinement and culture. In person he was awkward

<sup>1</sup> As a matter of fact Mr. Rawson was born at Dorchester, Mass.



and ungainly,<sup>1</sup> a peculiarity of which he was highly sensitive. It is related that while at Yarmouth he was told that some of his parishioners were in the habit of making him the subject of mirth, whereupon he preached the next Sabbath from Psalm 69, 12: "And I was the song of the drunkards." Many of his hearers, it is reported, left the house, whereupon he followed this sermon with one from St. John, 8, 9: "And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one." On this occasion no one ventured to retire.

The fact is he was accepting a call to an almost impossible field, as he well knew. It is not easy to picture the people or the difficulties to those who have not gone deeply into the times. Even an impartial judge hesitates to try to represent things as they were.

The settlers were of two different and distinct classes, — the English and the Scotch-Irish. Many had left their homes through the spirit of dissatisfaction, — men of little fortune and of little education. Many could not write their names. Very few could make more than a childish scrawl. Yet all, particularly those of Scotch descent, held strong and even violent opinions in regard to religious matters. They possessed strong individuality, were of ardent temperament, and strong in their prejudices.<sup>2</sup>

The two classes never got on harmoniously in any community. Not until the second generation on the soil were the best characteristics brought out, and the difficult ones eliminated. Mr. Rawson, an American born, and a Congregationalist, could not hope to understand the Scotch Presbyterianism of Ulster County and at the same time satisfy those of English blood. Then, too, the people were very poor. Their poverty became proverbial, and is continually referred to in old documents.

<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Cummings's recollections describe him as very tall and homely.

<sup>2</sup> The history of the relations between Rev. John Harvey and his people at Palmer where he was minister for many years previous to 1748 is strangely interesting. For years his Scotch-Irish compatriots stood by him as against the English, the latter being scandalized at his intemperate habits. He was actually convicted of drunkenness in the Court of Sessions at Northampton. In 1746, when a scandal was whispered touching his conduct of so unsupported a nature that the Presbytery refused to take cognizance of it, his former friends took the sword against him. Temple, "History of Palmer."



At the relations between pastor and people during the first year of Mr. Rawson's settlement we can only guess. They could hardly have been harmonious. That something was in the air is readily inferred from the Town Records. The annual meeting called for March 2, 1752, was adjourned without recorded action until Tuesday of the following week, at which time routine business was transacted, but nothing done in regard to the minister's salary, past or future. I suspect that drastic legislation not specified in the warrant was prevented by the moderator, who was in favor of right dealing toward Mr. Rawson. Within a month seven "freeholders and inhabitants" applied to Joseph Hawley, a Justice of the Peace for Hampshire County, for a warrant for a meeting to be held on May 12; a special meeting, not called by the regular officers of the town. The whole situation indicates that the community was in a turmoil. Joseph Wright, the precinct moderator, Jacob Cummings, clerk and first committee man, Benjamin Lull, second committee man, John Davis, assessor and tithing man, Jabez Omstead, Richard Rogers and Joseph Scott, all enter their dissent against the proceedings. But nothing could stay the enraged and excited townsmen. Illegal and absurd as their action evidently was, after the minister had been installed for a year, they revoked all acts of the town relating to the call and settlement of Grindall Rawson, — even to the fire-wood he might have burned the preceding winter!

What a situation! Neither settlement nor salary paid, though both were long overdue. No prospect of collecting either. One way out of the difficulty presented itself. In the records of the Court of Sessions at Northampton we find the following:

The petition of Grindal Rawson of Ware River in County of Hampshire setting forth that he is unable to support himself and praying maintenance being read in Court It is ordered that the parish of Ware River be notified to appear & answer at the next sessions.

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At next sessions:

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Grindal Rawson of Ware River in y<sup>e</sup> County of Hampshire Clerk Compts vs. Ware River parish for not paying him his contract as per the Complaint on file is fully set forth. Ordered that Messieurs Aaron Lyman; Abner Smith and Thomas Chapin be assessors to assess the Inhabitants of Ware River Parish the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money being the sum due for his settlements and forty-five pounds being arrears due to s<sup>d</sup> Rawson y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> of May last who are to proceed according to law in assessing the same and to pay cost of assessment to two justices of the Quorum to be paid to Mr. Edward Ayers &c.

It is a pitiful situation. It is doubly so when we realize that the ultimate effect must be, when the order of the court shall have been executed, to rouse the people of the parish even more violently against their pastor.

One more document we have that gives us a glimpse of the minister. It was written in the autumn of 1752, and could have been drawn up by no one but Grindall Rawson. The original is penned in a small, neat, clerkly hand, and we may be sure that the sentiments expressed are genuine.<sup>1</sup>

To His Honour Spencer Phips Esq<sup>r</sup> Lieutenant Governor and Commander in chief in and over his Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. The Hono<sup>r</sup>able his Majesties Council; and the Hono<sup>r</sup>able House of Representatives, in General Court Assembled.

The Prayer of the Inhabitation of a Parish in the county of Hampshire known by the name of Ware-River parish.

As the best of Beings permitts his Creatures to be importunate at his Throne, for those favours that they need; and when they frequently express their dependance upon him, is disposed to grant them the desired releaf: From hence would we take encouragement, humbly to beseech the Hono<sup>r</sup>able Assembly to take our Case, in regard to the province tax, once more into Consideration. And oh that our grief were thoro<sup>r</sup>ly weighed and our Calamity laid in the ballances together! For now it would be heavier than the Sand of the Sea; therefore we cannot refrain our mouths, we must cry, to our Civil Fathers, in the anguish of our Spirits, we must Complain in the bitterness of our Souls. What is our Sin, and what is our iniquity, that the Hono<sup>r</sup>able Assembly will not be pleased to hear our prayer?

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Archives, Vol. 13, pp. 333, 334.

Despise not our prayer we humbly beseech you, for our Eyes are dim by reason of Sorrow, and all our Members are as a Shadow. So great are our difficulties, that our ways are truly fenced up and darkness is set in our paths. To have pity upon us, to have pity upon us we humbly beseech the Rulers of our Land. We humbly pray that our Rulers in mercy to us would remove the tax that was laid upon us last year, w<sup>h</sup> is not, nor can't be gathered amongst us, and that also which has been laid upon us this present year; and we can't but flatter ourselves that our prayer will not now be rejected; but that all those worthy Gentlemen who go to the Assembly from our County, and the Towns round about us, are Gentlemen of So much Integrity, that they will lay our Case so plainly before our Civil Fathers that they will see that we need releaf, and that we are so far from being able to pay any tax to the province that we need assistance from others to gitt thro' the Charges of settling a Minister, for we now owe our Minister a year and halfs Sallary and all his Settlement, and had we got thro' these difficulties, and if the Land was our own, we should not be so able to pay a Province tax, our Settlements are so new, as Cold-Spring and Quobbin, who are considerably less upon the tax Bill than we are, *and their Stocks are vastly larger, and their Mills more profitable.* And there is Some places in the County that are under better Circumstances than we are, two at least, that pay no tax at all, this some of our Hono'rable Rulers are Sensible of. And further, many of us are under as bad Circumstances as the Egyptians, without paying any Province tax at all: wherefore we Sincerely hope that our Civil Fathers will so far Compassionate our case as to remove the tax, and we the rather promise ourselves releaf, because we are persuaded that all that belong to the Court this year, that know our case, are Gentlemen of So much Compassion and have such Bowels of mercy, that they will open their mouths and plead our Case in forma Pauperis; and we doubt not but the rest of our Civil Fathers will be ready to shew themselves merciful as our Father who is in Heaven is merciful; and we your supplicants as in duty bound Shall ever pray —

Ware-River Parish

Nov. 20. 1752

Jacob Cummings	} Parish Committee
John Davis	
Benjamin Lull	
} in the Name of the Parish	

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In the House of Rep<sup>ves</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 8. 1752 Read and Ordered that the Prayer of the Pet<sup>n</sup> be so far granted as that the Treasurer be and he hereby is directed to delay sending out his Execution ag<sup>t</sup> the Collector or Collectors of the within mentioned Inhabitants until the further Order of this Court

Sent up for concurrence

T Hubbard Spk<sup>r</sup>

In Council December 8. 1752

Read and Concur'd

Tho<sup>s</sup> Clarke Dp<sup>ty</sup> Secry

Consented to S Phips

Not only was relief granted as appears above, but the Ware River Parish assessment for the following year drops from £25 to £9.

The execution of the order of the Court of Sessions against the parish had a wholesome effect. A petition was carried to the General Court for authority to depose the old collectors, who evidently refused to do their duty, and to appoint new ones. Men friendly to the minister were appointed, and his salary ordered to be assessed. But hopes of a renewed pastoral relation were not to be entertained, and we are not surprised to find the following:

To the Commitee of Ware River Parish, to be commuenicated to the Parish. you are senseibal that for sum time I have wanted to be realeased from my relations to Ware River Parish, as a minester, and as the mager part of the voters have dismissed me from my relation to them as a minester, I gladly accept the oppertuinity of releasing myself from you, especally as the maigor part of my church have this day invited me to a-compney them into a new settelment of which I have accepted, and their fore I now release you from your relation to me as a minester from this day forward, as witness my hand.<sup>1</sup> Janeary the 30-1754.

Grindal Rawson.

The depth of the feud between the pastor's friends and enemies is revealed by this letter, but fortunately the exodus was stayed, the coming of spring bringing saner counsels.

<sup>1</sup> The atrocious spelling is not to be attributed to Mr. Rawson, but to the parish clerk.



The worthy Mr. Grindall Rawson now disappears from our horizon. In the following year, 1755, he was installed over the church at Yarmouth. The installation sermon on that occasion by the Rev. Ebenezer Gay of Hingham is in existence, and was evidently written with the unhappy experience at Ware River Parish in mind. He dwells upon the relation of pastor and people as sacred. He appeals to the congregation "to forsake not the Levite, their Minister," nor "join with those who say to them, 'Come and let us devise devices against him, and let us smite him with the tongue, and not give heed to any of his words.'" Addressing Mr. Rawson, he says: "You (Dear Brother), cannot, and others (I hope) will not, misconstrue the present Discourse, as impeaching your Conduct in the Separation which hath happen'd betwixt you and the People, over which you was ordain'd. The Reasons and Grounds of it were examin'd by proper Judges, who acquitted you of all Blame in that Matter. And it would be very invidious in any to say unto you, as *Eliab* did to *David*, who, by his Father's Order, brought a fresh supply of Provision for his Brethren at the Camp of *Israel*; Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few Sheep in the Wilderness? As your Dismission from the Care of a little Flock was regular, so your Call to take the Over-sight of this is (we trust) clear."<sup>1</sup>

A fairly exhaustive study of the conditions, and of all the available contemporary evidence, has led to certain conclusions.

It was the period of the great Religious Awakening in New England. Mr. Rawson must have been affected by it, coming as he did but recently from Cambridge; while the movement would have made but little impression upon a remote community, many of whose members were recent immigrants. One feature of the Awakening was evidenced by great strictness in religious discipline.

It has caused frequent remark that the Ware church had no confession or rule of faith until the ministry of Ezra Thayer, — an unusual situation for the times. When a confession was finally adopted it was decidedly lax, — the

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in "The Manour of Peace," by A. B. Page.

"Half-way Covenant" as it was called; and that represented a great forward step for our church.

Now Grindall Rawson had been endowed with the right of veto on church legislation when he was installed. That right "was for several reasons revoted unanimously" before the installation of Ezra Thayer. The laxity of morals even among church members is patent from the records. Thus the situation becomes evident. A minister standing for utmost strictness killing with his veto all lax and easy-going legislation, takes a stand far above what his parishioners are willing or able to subscribe, pressing all disciplinary measures until the majority of his people are infuriated to a degree.

Ware River Parish was just the place where an uncompromising parson would soon find himself in the situation into which Mr. Rawson was plunged. The apparently wanton destruction of Mr. Rawson's records becomes, under this view, wholly explicable.

It must not be forgotten that the Rev. Ebenezer Gay acquits Grindall Rawson of all blame, thereby inferentially laying the blame upon the parish.

From 1755-1760 Grindall Rawson ministered to the church in Yarmouth, but without much success so far as the interests of the parish were concerned. Yet again, the man must have had his good points, for the Ecclesiastical Council called for his dismissal, directed the parish to "recommend him to the communion of any church which he shall desire," and "express their wishes that he may be prospered and blessed in any work and business which Providence may call him to."

Mr. Rawson's feelings toward the town in which his second ministry was passed may be inferred from the following from Alden's *Memorabilia of Yarmouth, in Mass. Hist. Coll. of 1788*: "The Rev. Mr. Stone, of Harwich, a grave gentleman, attending a funeral at Yarmouth, and being in the burial place, some years after the death of Mr. Cotton, inquired for Mr. Cotton's grave, but there not being any one who could show it, he remarked, 'I think it is with Mr. Cotton's grave as it was with Moses, that distinguished servant of God, no man knoweth of his sepulchre to this day.'

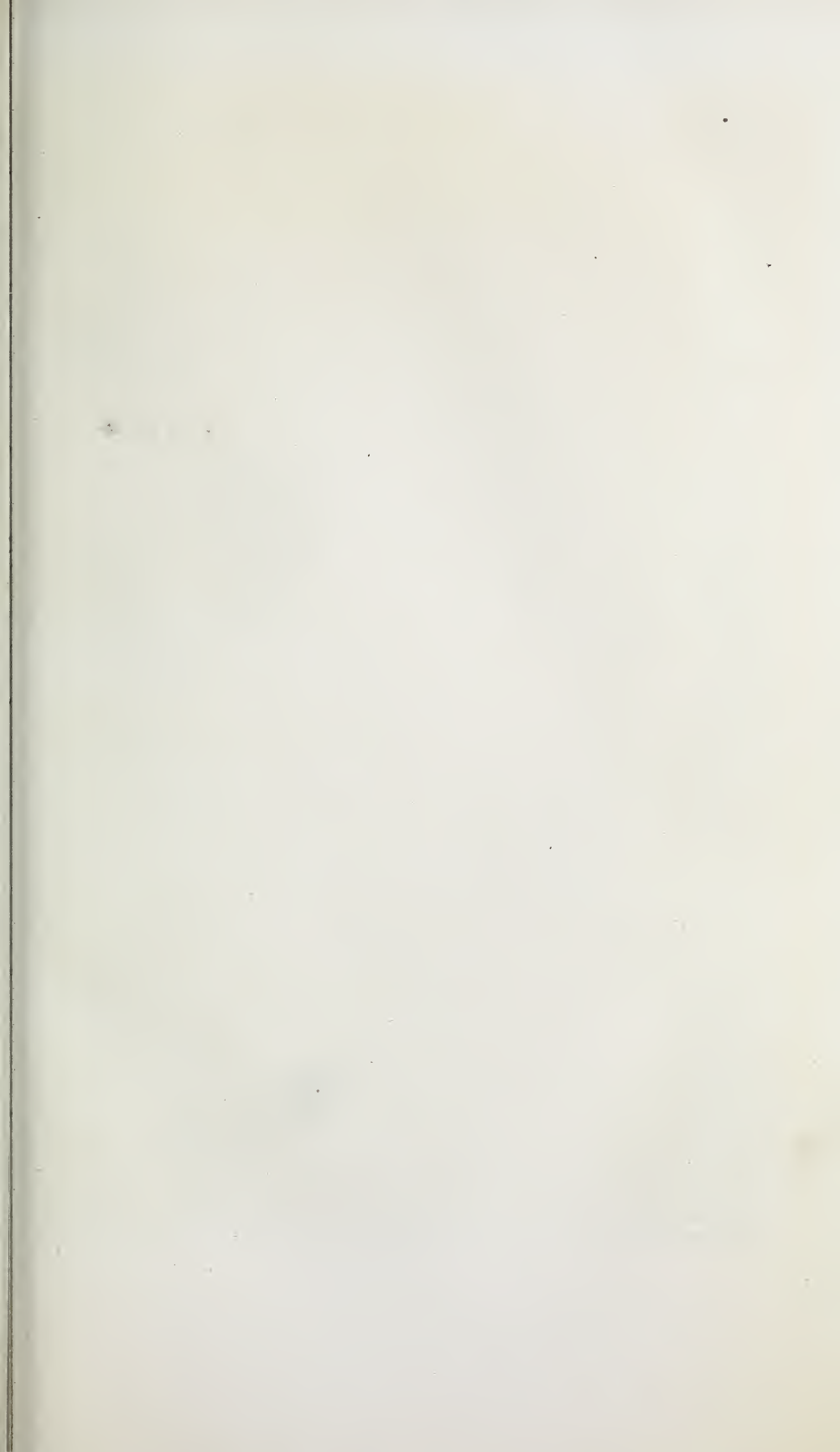
Mr. Rawson adds, — ‘This was the only one of the first seven ministers whose dust was committed to the earth in Yarmouth. Whatever they suffered, the worm did not feed on them there.’ ”

The Court Records at Northampton show that Mr. Rawson spent many years trying to collect of Ware men various sums of money due him when he left town. In 1762, while living at Milton, he brings suit against Jedidiah Ayers of Ware, and Ephraim Ayers, late of Ware, for £4., 11., 3, “which they by their note of the 24th of May, 1754 promised the petitioner to pay him.” The defendants being publicly called three times made default of appearance, and the court orders that the petitioner recover with costs.

In the same year he instituted a suit against Samuel Sherman and Thomas Andrews, both of Ware, “to recover £200 which he says they on the eleventh of March, 1762, by their bond, in Court to be produced, bound themselves to pay on demand, but have not paid.” In default of appearance of the defendants the petitioner is awarded £118., 16., 10., 3, and costs of court amounting to £3., 4., 8. Execution issued Oct. 22, 1763.

Our first minister did not again take up parochial work. His old age was spent peacefully with the family of his son at Dover, New Hampshire, “in quietness and retirement, and his transmigration to the eternal Manour of Peace on Nov. 18, 1794, closed a life exceeding the period allotted by the Psalmist.” <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Grindall Rawson sells to Thomas Andrews for £80 in 1759 the lot he received as a gift from the Read heirs, the parish never having redeemed its promise of a house to be built upon it. The original deed is in existence.







VIEW







# V

## PARISH LIFE AND GROWTH

THE dismissal of Mr. Rawson took place on Jan. 19, 1743. "For a time after his dismissal," says Rev. Augustus B. Reed,<sup>1</sup> "very little interest was taken in the institutions of the gospel. The house of God laid waste; the ways of Zion mourned; the people were as sheep scattered upon the mountains, while vice and irreligion prevailed among them." If we add the words "and dissension" after "irreligion" we shall have the whole situation. And in this, though Mr. Reed did not suspect it, lies the explanation of the unhappy ministry of Mr. Rawson.

Unfortunately the records of the church,<sup>2</sup> as distinguished from the parish under Grindall Rawson, are no longer in existence. It would appear that they were destroyed intentionally, — probably in the interest of peace and harmony. Mr. Thayer extracts from the records the absolutely essential facts, and starts a new book. The past is dead, and he buries it in oblivion.

His extracts which will serve as a recapitulation are as follows: —

May 9, 1751. A Chh was gathered at Ware River Parish, & Grindall Rawson ordained Pastor of it —

June 19, 1754. The Pastoral Relation of the Rev'd Mr. Grindal Rawson to the Chh in Ware River Parish was dissolved —

There follows a List of all the Members that belonged to the Chh in Ware River Parish from ye first Foundation of to June 19 1754 —

Grindal Rawson  
Jos'h Wright  
Edw'd Ayers

Jemima Ayers  
Mary Scott  
Jane Wright

<sup>1</sup> Thanksgiving Day Sermon of 1830.

<sup>2</sup> The parish had charge of the temporalities, the church of the spiritualities. Thus the parish attended to all financial matters, while the church dealt with doctrine and discipline. Parish and church united in calling a minister.



Jacob Cummings	Mary Allen
Samuel Smith	Meriam Brooks
John Davis	Martha Virgin
Jos'h Scott	Deborah Gilbert
Daniel Thurston	Elizabeth Taylor
Jos'h Wright jun	Mary Brooks
Isaac Magoon	Deborah Davis
Wm. Virgin	Jerusha Merrett
Jedidiah Ayers	Abigail Pike
Eben'r Gilbert	Martha Davis
Isaac Magoon 2nd	Rebecca Rogers
Eben'r Davis	Martha Omstead
Rich'd Fally	Rachel Cummings
David Pike	Anna Fally
Rich'd Rogers	Bridget Huggins
Job Carley	Patience Carley
Jacob Cummings jun	Catherine Magoon
Wait Burke	Susanna Burke

Some of these were dismissed & recommended from other Chhs. & others were never members before admitted by us. —

The above account was extracted from the Chh Records left at Ware River by the Rev'd Grindal Rawson. per Ezra Thayer.

It is recorded that twenty-seven children were baptized by Mr. Rawson.<sup>1</sup> For five years the church was without a settled minister, but it does not follow that there were no ministrations. Each year money was raised for preaching, for boarding ministers and for going after ministers. It could hardly have been easy to induce a man to settle, in view of the general undesirability of the parish, and the heart-rending experience of the first minister, whom they pursued even after his departure.<sup>2</sup>

By allowances for board of ministers we learn that among the temporary preachers were Mr. Mills, Mr. Craford (Crawford), Mr. Wran (probably Warren) and Mr. There (Thayer). The latter became the selected candidate for permanent pastor.

<sup>1</sup> Coburn's "Historical Address," 1851.

<sup>2</sup> Town Records, January, 1755: "It was then voted and chouse Israel Omstead and William Brackenridge a commite to take advice of the Lawers, to see if we can recover any part of Mr. Rawson's setelment."

In 1758 a double meeting was held of parish and of church, at which it was "Voted by the Chh. to give Mr. Ezra Thayer a Call to settle among us, in the work of the Gospel ministry." And it was "Voted by the other inhabitants to concur with the Chh." For settlement £100 was proposed, part to be paid in land, while the salary was fixed at £40 for the first three years, "and then to add £5 per year, till the whole amounts to £55 annually." In addition, the parish was to cut and draw thirty cords of wood each year; — "He finding the wood standing." Toward the settlement, it was voted to deed to Mr. Thayer the glebe, or parsonage lot, he allowing for the same £66,13,4, of which naive performance, more anon.

The patronage of the Read family was not forgotten, and a committee was directed to "treat with Mr. Read to obtain a settlement." As John Read had died some ten years before, John Read, Jr. of Fairfield, Connecticut, was evidently the one meant. The Read heirs proved themselves ready, as heretofore, with assistance, for under date of 1762<sup>1</sup> we find a deed of fifty acres in fee simple to Ezra Thayer, it being

the Northernmost half of the fourth lott of land from the South of the second tier of lotts from the East in the Manour of Peace, so called, s<sup>d</sup> lott being bounded Easterly by a four rod Highway . . . the said fifty acres being the Northern half of s<sup>d</sup> hundred acre lott . . . Excepting and Reserving about three acres and a quarter of land part of the s<sup>d</sup> fifty acres where the Meeting House in s<sup>d</sup> Ware now stands for the Convenience of s<sup>d</sup> House & Burying place.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Thayer gracefully accepted the call in the following letter:

Bretheren and Gentlemen: —

Whereas you have given me a Call to settle with you in the work of the Gospel ministry; These are to signify to you, that I accept of your Invitation, and desiring your

<sup>1</sup> Old Hampshire Registry, Springfield.

<sup>2</sup> In 1765 Ezra Thayer sells this tract to Solomon Cummings for the goodly sum of £42.

Prayers for me and that our entring into this Solemn Relation may be for God's Glory & our mutual comfort and happiness both in the presant & future Life, I subscribe myself, yours to Serve in the evangelis ministry.

Ezra Thayer.

Ware Dec'r. 19, 1758.

The town appointed Jan. 10, 1759, as the day for Mr. Thayer's ordination. Rev. Messrs. White, Jones, Forbush, Parsons, Frost and Thurston,<sup>1</sup> representing the three Brookfield parishes; Hardwick, Western, Coldspring, Medway and Mendon, together with lay delegates, formed the Council. Rev. David White acted as moderator; Eli Forbush of the Second Church in Brookfield as scribe. The preacher was Rev. Isaac Jones of the first parish in Brookfield.

The council prepared a church covenant, defined the word *Congregational*, read a Confession of Faith which was consented to by the pastor-elect and by the church, received Mr. Thayer's letter of dismission from the Second Church of Mendon, examined him on his ministerial qualifications, and then proceeded to his ordination over the church and parish of Ware River.

That there was laxity of sentiment in the parish as compared with a majority of Massachusetts churches is shown by the unanimous adoption, within a month of Mr. Thayer's ordination, of the Half-way Covenant as follows:

1. That all persons who, upon their own confession may hereafter be admitted in covenant with the church be looked upon as members of the same and to have a right to the special ordinances of the gospel among us.

2. That persons being under any unavoidable scruples in regard to partaking of the Lord's supper, shall be no bar against their being admitted into covenant with this church: provided they promise to be in the diligent use of all proper means to have those scruples removed.

3. That they who, while under these scruples shall be admitted into covenant, be not admitted to partake of the Lord's supper, without first acquainting the pastor, in order to his acquainting the church a week at least beforehand,

<sup>1</sup> One other name is illegible.



that their scruples being removed they intend now to partake.

Under these rules<sup>1</sup> it was intended that unconverted persons might so far become members of the church as to have their children baptized. Accordingly we find by the records that during Mr. Thayer's ministry, near twenty persons were received agreeably to these rules, who invariably had their children baptized, but who, so far as can be ascertained, never came to the communion. Besides these, 79 were received into full membership during the sixteen years of Mr. Thayer's ministry; fifty of them within the first five years, and seventeen of these within the first year of his ministry, and no more than four at any one time. The decrease of numbers received towards the latter end of his ministry may have been owing in part to the political agitations of the times, in which the public mind was engrossed as we approach the year 1775, in which Mr. Thayer deceased.

Reference has been made to Mr. Thayer's "settlement." At the church and parish meeting it was voted to give Mr. Thayer a warranty deed of the ministry lot that was received from John Read, Sen., and it was "voted Capt. Jacob Cummings, Deacon Joseph Scott and Mr. Edward Damon be a committe to exauet [execute] in behalf of the parish s<sup>d</sup> Deed to the s<sup>d</sup> Mr. Ezra Thayer, on Demand after his ordination among us."

A deed was given by these three men in the name of the Ware River Parish of the original glebe, which lay about half a mile west of the meeting-house, and bordered on the west side of the road over Brimstone Hill. It is the only deed ever given in the name of Ware River Parish,<sup>2</sup> and it was wholly illegal, null and void. It is amazing that no one of the parties interested knew that the land could not be alienated in any such manner. Unfortunately it was upon this tract, rather than on the tract east of the meeting-house given him by the Read heirs, that Mr. Thayer chose to make his home. A copy of Mr. Thayer's receipt for the value of the land as previously agreed upon is filed in the Town Records:

<sup>1</sup> Coburn's "Historical Address," 1851.

<sup>2</sup> Registry of Deeds, Springfield.



Ware River Aug't 19<sup>th</sup>, 1759.

Then rec'd of Capt. Cummings, Doctr Damoon & Lieut. Scott, Sixty Six pounds, thirteen Shillings and four pence Lawful money, in part for my Settlement in Ware River.

Rec'd pay't

Ezra Thayer.

It was apparently some years before it was discovered that the thrifty action of the parish in selling its glebe was illegal. But when the discovery was made, measures were taken to set the affair right. The first thing to do was to consult their friends and benefactors — the Read heirs. It could not have been an agreeable task, nor could they have reasonably expected relief from that quarter. Yet such was the generosity and large-heartedness of the Reads that they promptly came to the rescue with a gift of the most advantageously situated lot that they had left of the entire Manour.

May 25, 1767.

Deed of the Read heirs, viz

John Read  
Mary Morris  
Chas. Morris  
Deborah Paget  
Henry Paget  
W<sup>m</sup> Read  
Abigail Miller

For the founding & endowment of a parish ch. in y<sup>e</sup> district of Ware — Grant to Jacob Cummings & John Davis, the present Deacons of s<sup>d</sup> Ch. the 4<sup>th</sup> lott from the South in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tier of Lotts from y<sup>e</sup> East in that part of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> district called ye Manour of Peace Bounded Easterly by y<sup>e</sup> fourth lott of y<sup>e</sup> Second Tier of lotts one hundred rods wide, & thence extending west & by South half a mile long, and also parcell of ye said fourth lott from y<sup>e</sup> South in y<sup>e</sup> Second Tier from ye East whereon y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house now stands & y<sup>e</sup> lands adjacent as reserved in & by their Several Deeds of Conveyance of y<sup>e</sup> rest of y<sup>e</sup> said lott containing abt. 3½ acres. To have & to hold y<sup>e</sup> sd 4<sup>th</sup> lot in the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier, & parcel of s<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> lot in 2<sup>nd</sup> tier . . . in special trust to them y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Jacob Cumings & John Davis Deacons of the s<sup>d</sup> Ch. &

their successors in that office for ever in pure & perpetual alms for y<sup>e</sup> only uses & purposes hereafter expresst. viz<sup>t</sup> The said  $3\frac{1}{4}$  acres parcels of the s<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> lott in ye 2<sup>nd</sup> teer for the founding & continuance of a parish Church & Christian Burying place forever, and the said 4<sup>th</sup> lott in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tier of lotts for a Glebe thereunto annexed for the use & improvement of y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Ezra Thayer now minister of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parish & his Successors in that Sacred Office towards their Maintenance & support forever in Leiu of Lands formerly granted by John Read Esq<sup>r</sup> deceased for y<sup>e</sup> like purposes & now in the Possession of the s<sup>d</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Thayer.

(Signatures as at beginning.)

Armed with this second gift of a glebe, the parish could go before the General Court and ask that their sale of the first glebe be legalized, — as was in justice due to Mr. Thayer who had made his home and “spent his whole substance” in improvements. The minister himself was directed to proceed to Boston to attend to the business, and the town afterwards reimbursed him for the expense, which amounted to £2,,6,,3. The action of the Court in regard to the matter appears in the following:

Province of the Massachusetts Bay }	In council June 1 <sup>st</sup> 1768 upon the petition of Ezra Thayer of the District of Ware Clerk, and the deeds accompanying the same, it appears that the Hon <sup>ble</sup> John Read Esq <sup>r</sup> late of Boston deceased on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of Septem <sup>r</sup> 1748 for the founding and endowment of a Parish in the Ten Thousand Acres of Equivalent Did Give, grant convey and confirm unto Jabez Olmstead and others the Sixth lott and part of the fifth lott lying in a place then called the Manour of Peace, To have and to hold to them and theirs forever in special trust and confidence, for the following uses viz <sup>t</sup> for the use of the first minister of God's holy word and Sacramentts as shall be chosen there, and thereupon be lawfully instituted and ordained to that holy office there, and such his successors forever in pure and perpetuall alms, That after the ordination of the said Ezra over the Church and congregation at said Manour of Peace, a committee of said Parish conveyed said lands to the s <sup>d</sup> Ezra for a valuable consideration in fee simple in consequence whereof he built
--	--

upon said land, cleared and so improved it as that he hath spent his whole substance thereon. It further appears that the heirs of the s<sup>d</sup> John sensible of the unhappy and ruinous circumstances the said Ezra was brought into as aforesaid from benevolent principles to the said Ezra and to the District of Ware, and that their honored Father's design as aforesaid might not in the least be frustrated tho<sup>t</sup> the said Ezra should have the land aforesaid confirmed unto him, Have by deed given granted and conveyed unto Jacob Cummings and John Davis the present Deacons of said Church an Equivalent, or rather more than an equivalent in Lands in said District in pure and perpetual alms for the same uses and purposes as were mentioned in their Father's Deed as aforesaid. Wherefore it is resolved that the Deed of Lands mentioned in said Petition given by Jacob Cummings, Edward Dammon and Joseph Scott to the said Ezra bearing date the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1759 and recorded in the Registry of Deeds for the county of Hampshire Liber 6 folio 403 shall forever hereafter be held and taken to be effectual and available in Law against the feoffees named in the Deed of the said John Read Esq<sup>r</sup> in trust as also against all who may claim from by or under the said feoffees or any of them and against any person who may succeed the said Petitioner in the office of a Gospel Minister in said District, and the same shall be as good an estate to the said Ezra and his Heirs in fee simple as if the said John had conveyed said lands to the said Jacob and others and to their heirs to their own uses.

Sent down for concurrence

A. Oliver Sec'y

In the house of Representatives June 1<sup>st</sup> 1768

Read and Concurred

T. Cushing Speak<sup>r</sup>

Consented to

Fra Bernard

A true copy

Exam<sup>d</sup> John Cotton Secre<sup>r</sup>

Recd September 28<sup>th</sup> 1768 & Registered from the original copy

Edw<sup>d</sup> Pyncheon Reg<sup>r</sup>

Though it be anticipating, it may here be related that during the long vacancy after Mr. Thayer's death the parish,



with extremely poor foresight, petitioned the General Court for permission to sell this new glebe "for the purpose of settling a minister." It was represented that "the ministerial lot is wholly wild and uncultivated, and therefore has never been of any service to the ministers."<sup>1</sup> The petition was granted in 1789, though the Court stipulated that the money received should be held intact, "and the annual interest itself thereof shall be appropriated solely for the benefit of the ministry in said town, agreeably to the original appropriation."

For sixteen years the Rev. Ezra Thayer served the Ware River Parish, holding to the end the affection of his people, — a fact that, in those difficult times, speaks much for the man's tact. He undoubtedly was, as several historians assure us, a man of "accommodating turn." He was a native of Mendon, and a graduate of Harvard College in 1756. He was undoubtedly an excellent manager and a shrewd business man, possessing qualities rare in ministers of those days, and which could not fail to make him respected in a struggling community. That his salary was not always paid with the regularity that could be desired appears from the Town Records, but there was good humor on both sides, and doubtless the money was forthcoming eventually. An article in the warrant in 1768 was "to hear what our minister has to Lay Befor you Relative to his Salory not having Ben Sesonably payed him In the Past, and to act upon any proposal that he may make to you." Under this article the meeting adjourned to Deacon Cummings's for ten minutes (we can guess what for), and returning refreshed to the meeting-house took no action in the matter. But who can doubt that things went better afterwards?

Mr. Thayer acquired considerable land during his residence, and must have been regarded as a man of substance. His widow Judith in 1777 sold some 230 acres to Wm. Page, Jr., of Hardwick for £560.

When but forty-two years of age Mr. Thayer's earthly ministry closed. He died Feb. 19, 1775, apparently after a sickness of considerable length, for the parish voted to continue his salary to the time of his death, to bear the funeral expenses,

<sup>1</sup> A rather disingenuous statement under the circumstances.



and to "see about a pillar" to put over his grave. It was just before the outbreak of the Revolution, when money was scarce and taxes high, when everybody was in debt and war was filling men's minds. It was hardly a time to give much thought to tombstones, and the matter was allowed to drop for a time. But in 1782 it was brought up again, and finally in 1784 a stone costing £4.,4, was erected at the parish expense, — a tribute to the lasting impression of Mr. Thayer's ministry, and of the affection his people long retained. The epitaph upon his headstone in the old burying place at the Centre may still be read:

In Memory of the Rev. Ezra Thayer, the Learned, Pious, Faithful, and Deservedly Esteemed Pastor of the Church in this town, who died Feb. 12, 1775, in the 43d year of his age, and the 16th of his ministry.

Go reader mind  
The better part,  
Believe the Gospel,  
Mend thy heart.  
Go learn to live,  
Learn to die.  
For die thou must  
As well as I.

#### EXTRACT FROM THE WILL OF EZRA THAYER

Further I will and bequeath unto the Church and Congregation in Ware fifty Dollars to be paid to them when they shall have settled a regular Orthodox Learned Congregational Minister ordained according to the Ecclesiastical Constitution of this Province, provided my Lands in Ware be sold at that Time, and if my said Lands be not sold at that Time, the said sum is to be secured to their Town Treasurer whenever said Lands are sold said fifty Dollars is given towards helping them to defray the Charge of his settlement.

Also it is my Will that a certain negro girl named Leah whom I lately sold to Deacon Solomon Rich of Westurn in the County of Worcester for the Term of about nine years & an half, should be freed & set at Liberty at the Expiration of said Term upon the following Conditions viz that she be under the guardianship of said Rich whom I hereby appoint her Guardian, til she has by her sober and industrious Conduct given proper Evidence that she is a Person fit to

be set at full Liberty. It is also my will that the said Rich should Take a certain Bond I have against William Blackamore Jun<sup>r</sup> of Ware aforesaid for Ten sheep, Which are the Property of said Leah, and I hereby impower said Rich to demand and Receive said sheep when the Time fixed in said Bond is Expired, and to let them out for said Leah to the best Advantage so long as his Guardianship continues. Also I give and bequeath unto the said Leah six Pounds Thirteen shillings and four Pence to be paid into the Hands of her said guardian within six Months after her said nine years & half Service is expired, the said sheep & Money to be given to her when it shall sufficiently appear that she is capable of taking proper Care of herself & her substance, and she is to be entitled to all the Profits of them & of her Earnings while under guardianship — it is to be understood that the above mentioned Legacy to the Church & Congregation of Ware and the said six Pounds thirteen shillings & four Pence to said Leah are to be paid by the Person hereafter to be named as Executrix of this my last Will & Testament.

The census enumeration of 1765 reports one female slave in Ware. The census of 1790 records no negro as being owned here. So far as the records show, Leah was the only slave ever held in our town.

The library of Mr. Thayer, described in the inventory of his estate, is of interest.

Henery — 2 vols. on the New Testament.

Tillotson's Works, 3 vol.

Cruden's Concordance.

Clark's Sermons, 4 vol.

Lowman on Revelation.

Dycher's Dictionary.

Grove's Works, 2 vol.

Dr. Calemon's Practical Discourses on ye Parable of ye Ten Virgins.

Preceptors, 2 vol.

Forten Sermons.

Gordon's Geography.

An Essay on Prayer.

Christian Institutes.

Orrery — Life of Swift.

Derham — Astro-Theology.

Ray's Wisdom of God in the Works of Creation.

Tate and Brady's Psalms.

A Number of Pamphlets.

Henery on Prayer.

12 Latin, Greek & Hebrew Books, 8 Classic Books, one old Dictionary, Greek Testament, Grammar, Cicero's Orations &c.

12 Magazines.

The library was appraised at £20,7,3.

Following the death of Mr. Thayer the church was without a settled pastor for a period of ten years. They were troublous times, the Revolutionary War sapping the strength of the people and drawing away from their homes the best blood of the community. There was great poverty, and constant anxiety and sorrow. In a material sense it was a dark time for the parish. Spiritually it was otherwise, for such experiences always turn people's hearts back to God. At no time in our history was greater care and anxiety for spiritual ministrations showed than during this period. The records are full of this spirit, and ministerial supply was fairly constant for the whole of the ten years.

In 1777 it was "voted to make proposals to Mr. Chapin to be our minister," and a committee was appointed "to Inquire at Mr. Chapin into his Principals, and Tarms of Settlement." Two years later it was "voted unamustly to give the Revrant Mr. Davenport a call to setel in the gospel minestry, in this place." In 1780 church and parish united in giving Mr. Winslow Packard a call. The terms of payment of his settlement are interesting, and reflect the common custom of the times when money was almost nonexistent, and bills, — even tax bills, — were payable in commodities. Wheat was to be received at five shillings per bushel, rye at three shillings and four pence, Indian corn at two shillings and six pence, pork at three pence half-penny per pound, beef at two pence, wool at one shilling and six pence, butter at seven pence, labor at two shillings and six pence per day in haying-time.

Mr. Packard declining the call, it was voted at a later meeting of the same year "to send Deacon Smith to see if Mr. Goodale will incline to settle with us, and if he will to



Hire him." In 1781 the call to Rev. Winslow Packard was renewed, — again without effect. In 1782 a somewhat permanent supply was secured in the person of Mr. Tuttle, — an elderly man, who was engaged with the humiliating stipulation that if the town could get a younger man he should give way. But young candidates were scarce, and Mr. Tuttle held the fort in spite of his age for two years or more.

After Mr. Tuttle came Rev. Jeremiah Hallock, a man of deep and fervent piety, to whom a unanimous call was extended to accept a settlement. But Mr. Hallock felt impelled to go elsewhere. At his departure he wrote in his diary:

Feb. 1. Visited my pleasant grove, and took my farewell of Ware. I have been there twelve Sabbaths. When I came the young people were light and gay, but it has pleased God to awaken them so that their frolicks are turned into conferences, and to God's name be all the glory. There are about twelve hopeful converts.

Soon after this it was voted to give Mr. Benjamin Judd a call to settle in the work of the Gospel Ministry. Mr. Judd accepted, and his ordination was set for Oct. 12, 1785. The Rev. Daniel Collins of Lanesboro' was appointed to preach the ordination sermon, the other members of the council being Mr. West of Stockbridge, Mr. Munsel (or Munson) of Lenox, Mr. Baldwin of Palmer, Mr. Perry of Richmond, Mr. Ward of Brookfield, Mr. Appleton of Brookfield, Mr. Forward of Belchertown, and Mr. Williams of Brimfield. Provision for the council was made at the town cost. All this is very commonplace and prosaic, but there was nothing commonplace about Mr. Judd's ministry of two years' duration.

It was that critical period following the Revolution in which occurred what is known as "Shays' Rebellion."<sup>1</sup> This was a popular outbreak growing from the oppressive taxes, the heavy individual and town debts, distrust of the government and other burdens and misfortunes incident to the

<sup>1</sup> Shays' Rebellion bore more strongly on the ecclesiastical than the civil history of Ware, and is therefore touched upon in this connection.



War. It is of especial interest to us, because our town was in the midst of the disaffected territory, and many of our citizens aided and abetted the movement.

A spirit of popular discontent was abroad in Massachusetts, especially in the purely agricultural communities where the hardships incident to eight years of war were most keenly felt. State, county and town taxes were heavy, and the farmer, who could not by any means conceal his holdings either from assessors or sheriffs, found the burden almost more than he could bear, particularly as the lack of circulating medium made his products unsalable for cash, and he had no other sources of income. Gold and silver there was none, and the voluminous issues of Continental paper currency had lost credit. And the country was flooded with counterfeits of even these nearly worthless bills.<sup>1</sup> Everybody was in financial straits. Real estate was unsalable. The soldiers had come home poor, sick and discouraged. Everybody tried to enforce the collection of debts, and attachments of property, as everyday affairs, wrought the people to a dangerous pitch. No wonder men were ready to resort to force to prevent the sale of goods and lands at the hands of the sheriff. The popular feeling was that the laws were unfair and oppressive, though no one knew in what manner to correct them.<sup>2</sup>

Conventions to suggest means of relief, or to influence public opinion, were held in various places. Ware was represented in several of these. To a convention at Hatfield Aug. 22, 1786, called "to see if a constitutional way of Relief, or some Legal method cannot be proposed for the security and Safety of the Good people of this Commonwealth against the burdens & Distresses that Prevails at the present Day," Captain Bullen was sent; David Brown, Isaac Pepper and Daniel Gould being appointed as advisory committee. In November a convention for "Redress of Grievances" was held at Hadley, to which Isaac Pepper was sent as delegate. Mr. Pepper was also sent to Hatfield in January, 1787. Civil war seemed imminent, and in the fol-

<sup>1</sup> Allowances for counterfeit bills form quite a percentage of the business of the town meetings.

<sup>2</sup> At least three writs were served against Ware in 1784, and there were other town debts.

lowing month Captain Brackenridge, Mr. Parker and Moses Brown were sent as "a committee to General Lincoln and Capt. Shays to consult on some measures for Peace."<sup>1</sup>

There were more or less serious disorders in several places. The popular desire being to prevent the executions that were pending against persons and property, attempts were made to prevent the sittings of the Courts. These attempts were successful at Great Barrington and at Springfield. At Worcester, too, the sessions were broken up by armed men under Captain Shays.

About the middle of January, 1787, Captain Shays ordered his adherents to rendezvous at Palmer, where he himself joined them. Not less than 1000 men assembled. Other forces of insurgents were gathered at West Springfield and at Chicopee. Shays' plan was to storm the Springfield Arsenal. He marched from Palmer on January 24, and entered Springfield the next day, having camped for the night at Wilbraham. But at Springfield the militia, under the command of General Shepard, who acted under orders from General Lincoln, was ready under arms. Only one volley was fired. Three insurgents were killed and one mortally wounded, at which Shays and his men fled in confusion. This was the death-blow of the rebellion.

I have said that the movement was of the common people. The better educated and professional classes were most strongly opposed to it. Judges, lawyers and clergymen, as the conservative element in society, were unmeasured in their denunciations. Among these was the Rev. Benjamin Judd. He used his pulpit as a forum from which he denounced the abettors of the rebellion in no measured terms. Deacon Maverick Smith and Abijah Davis left the meeting-house in the midst of public worship "in contempt of the pastor, or what he delivered." They, together with Deacon Thomas Jenkins, Thomas Marsh and Daniel Gould, thereafter absented themselves from public worship. Both these acts were deemed grounds for the exercise of discipline. Counter-charges were preferred against the pastor for harsh expressions both in public and in private.

<sup>1</sup> Major General Lincoln was in command of the State troops, Captain Shays of insurgents.

An Ecclesiastical Council was called to settle the grievances and to restore harmony amongst the divided and excited flock, or else to dissolve the relation between pastor and church. The Council convened, consisting of eight ministers and seven laymen from the neighboring churches. Charges and countercharges were laid before the Council. After mature deliberation Deacon Maverick Smith, Mr. Thomas Marsh and Daniel Gould were censured for absenting themselves from public worship, their conduct characterized as "a flagrant violation of the Divine Laws . . . and of all order in the Church of Christ."

The charge against Deacon Thomas Jenkins, Lieut. Abraham Cummings, Ebenezer Nye and Lieut. David Brown for aiding and assisting in the rebellion was unanimously supported. The Council characterized the rebellion as "most wicked and unprovokable, that it was a crime of y<sup>e</sup> most aggravated nature," and the four men were declared censurable.

The Council's dealings with the charges against Mr. Judd for "harsh expressions" might serve as a model of casuistry. With respect to the expression "Hell-Hound," said to have been delivered but not written, it was declared "not proven." "For calling the Chh. a pretended one. These words used by Mr. Judd are capable of, and often used in a sense that is unexceptionable, and it does not appear to this Council but they were so used by Mr. Judd." For saying that "he would as soon pray for the Devils in Hell as for y<sup>e</sup> insurgents," Mr. Judd is excused because he "immediately explained himself as meaning only for their success and prosperity in their unlawful undertakings." His saying that "if the Devil was Governor or Ruler the People ought to Obey Him," was conceded to be a "rash and unguarded expression."

Enough has been quoted to show the state of affairs; yet the Council refused to sever the pastoral relation, doubtless hoping that bitterness would die as the rebellion itself had died. Mr. Judd was declared to be "an honest faithful minister of Christ," and it was held that "if the Chh & People in this Town will attend to their duty, lay aside all wrath & bitterness, and put on as the Elect of God, kindness



and humbleness of mind, meekness and gentleness, their Rev'nd. Pastor may be a great Blessing to them."

Much excellent advice was given both to pastor and people, and as to discipline, a return to duty was declared to be a "sufficient satisfaction for past errors and misconduct." Any expectation that peace would so easily be restored was manifestly Utopian. Two months later the town in legal meeting voted to dismiss their minister, the vote being taken by a division of the house, and standing 63 to 13. Another Ecclesiastical Council was convened in September, and the pastoral relation dissolved; Mr. Judd being declared "not to have forfeited his moral or ministerial character." The Council therefore recommends him "to future usefulness in any part of the Vineyard where God in his Providence may call him."

After the dismissal<sup>1</sup> of the Rev. Benjamin Judd the church was without a pastor for five years.

It was a period of reconstruction after the Revolutionary War, a time of hardship and of extreme poverty. For two years the church was at a standstill, not a single official meeting being recorded for that period in the parish records.

That does not mean, however, that there was no preaching. In March, 1788, it was voted to supply the pulpit, and a committee of three was appointed to "make application to the Association, or any other Gentlemen they think proper." William Page, who had entertained the last Council, was appointed to board the ministers for the year ensuing.

In the following year it was voted "that the Ministerial Committee apply to Mr. Chroysby to supply the pulpit for the present."

At a meeting in May, 1789, it was voted "to sell the Pue Ground to the Highest Bidor," money being needed for repairs on the meeting-house. The sale seems to have been anything but a solemn affair, for the vendue was adjourned to Ebenezer Nye's tavern where the interspersion of further

<sup>1</sup> The expenses of the Council that dismissed Mr. Judd, which were met by the town, were as follows:

"212 meals at 7d per meal.

68 lodgings at 2d each.

4d for keeping a horse 24 hours. — 76 horses.

Four gallons of new rum at 3s per gallon.

Two gallons of old rum at 5s per gallon."



adjournments of from five to fifteen minutes each were resorted to to lubricate the sales. A good sum appears to have been realized, the purchasers not paying cash being required to give security.

Soon after this, application was made to a Mr. Alesworth to fill the pulpit, which he did for a time, to be followed by Mr. Briggs.

In September, 1789, a church meeting was held, at which two deacons were chosen, and the right of veto, given first to Grindall Rawson, and later confirmed to Ezra Thayer, was withdrawn from future pastors.

It has caused considerable surprise that such a power should ever have been placed in the hands of the pastor of the church. "This,<sup>1</sup> it is said, was voted for several reasons, none of which are given; and to our minds it is more than questionable whether any good reasons could have been assigned, for the vote was a direct violation of the first principles of Congregationalism, giving the pastor the power of a veto, and so violating the integrity of a body, which, after the primitive pattern is competent to all ecclesiastical action." Mr. Coburn fails to apprehend the very excellent reason that the vote was passed; namely, that the ordaining councils, with little confidence in the spiritual discernment of our early church members, dictated the action to them.

In 1790 several church meetings were held. The church "went into a general examination of themselves, and a renewal of their covenant."

Nothing could give a better picture of the social and religious condition of the time than the following brief votes:

That inconstancy in family prayer be a matter of discipline. That excess in drinking strong liquors be a matter of discipline. That all vain, and profane words, such as I Swair, — I Vow, — Cuss you or me, — faith, — Damn you or me, — and all other words of the same nature, — and every other Sin that the Word of God forbideth shall be matters of Discipline in this Church.

<sup>1</sup> Coburn's Address, 1851.

Early in 1792 a serious move was made toward obtaining a settled pastor. Following a vote of the church this letter was sent to three neighboring ministers:

Ware, Feb. 14, 1792.

Reverend Sir: —

The Church of God in this place, have this day voted to set apart Thursday 23rd instant as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer to seek of the Lord a right way in order to resettle a Gospel Minister. Voted also to invite Messrs Ward, Holt and Crosby to come and assist them with their Labours of Love. These are therefore to request your kind attendance.<sup>1</sup>

William Page, Moderator.

On this day of special observances the church "Unanimously voted to give Mr. Reuben Moss an invitation to settle in this place as a Gospel Minister." At the March meeting, which followed soon after, the town unanimously voted to concur with the church, and a committee was appointed to draw up proposals. A grant of £150 for settlement was made, and Mr. Moss's salary was fixed at £80 a year.

The proceedings are laid before us in a series of interesting documents.<sup>2</sup>

To the Church and other Inhabitants in Ware.

Brethren and Friends,

I have taken your Call, to settle with you as a Gospel minister, into serious, deliberate and prayerful Consideration. Influenced by Solomon's Assertion, In the multitude of Counsellors there is safety, I have also asked the opinion of my Honoured Parents and of many Reverend Fathers in the Ministry. On the whole, reviewing the singular Providence of God, in opening a door for me to preach the gospel among you, the Unanimity of your hearts in Electing me for your pastor, Your generous Proposals for my temporal support and the joint Encouragement of all to whom I have made application for advice to go forward, I am in-

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Ephraim Ward of Brookfield, Rev. Thomas Holt of Hardwick and Rev. Joshua Crosby of Greenwich.

<sup>2</sup> Reuben Moss, a native of Cheshire, Connecticut, graduated at Yale College in 1787, and studied theology with the Rev. Dr. Benj. Trumbull of New Haven. — Hyde.

clined to think that the Voice of the People is the voice of God, saying, this is the way, walk in it; however, contemplating the Magnitude and extent of a good work, how many fiery darts may be hurled at an Officer in the Church Militant, and the Solemn account all who watch for souls must give at the last great day, I am ready to adopt the language of the apostle, who is sufficient for these things. But the Captain of our Salvation hath said, Lo I am with you always. Animated by this Great and precious promise, I Cheerfully comply with your joint invitation. Let me be Interested always in your effectual fervent prayers, and constantly supported by your pious Examples, and I think I shall be cordially willing to spend and be spent for you.

I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he would satisfy you early with his mercies, do you good and make you Glad according to the days wherein he hath afflicted you, and the years wherein you have seen Evil. Now the God of hope pour his spirit upon you, and his blessing upon your offspring and fill you all, both old and young with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the holy Ghost. Permit me to subscribe myself your servant for Jesus' Sake.

Reuben Moss.

N. B. As Ware is so far from my kindred according to the flesh, from the public Seats of Literature. &c., I may have occasion to be absent three or four Sabbaths Yearly.

P. S. It is written If any man provide not for his own, but especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an Infidel. You will expect therefore that I pay suitable attention to the things which are seen. I shall consider it an act of kindness if the town will give their obligation to Mr. Thomas Marsh for forty-five pounds as soon as he procures and delivers me a Warrantee Deed of the seventeen acres of land called his wife's thirds. If it be your pleasure that the year in your computation of time respecting my annual Salary commence the first day of April, when I last returned to you from Pelham, I have no objections. — Once more I beg leave to rely on your punctuality. Punctuality will be best for you, for in general sufficient unto a year are the burdens thereof. Punctuality I apprehend will be of great service to me. I suppose I shall be willing to enter into a family state, as



soon as I can procure Decent Buildings without being much involved, and I have but little to depend on to defray the expense of Building, besides my annual income and the kind donation of a generous people. Punctuality, therefore, and any assistance which has been or may be proposed, will be received with gratitude by him who is cheerfully devoted to the service of God our Saviour among you. Finally, Brethren, be perfect, be of good Comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of Love and Peace shall be with you. Happy is that People that is in such a case, yea happy is that People whose God is the Lord.

Ware, May 18, 1792."

The Church of God in Ware to the Church of God in Keene — Greeting.

Through the good hand of our God we have unanimously given Mr. Reuben Moss, Candidate, a call to settle with us as a Gospel minister, and take the Pastoral charge and oversight of the Church and Congregation; and the town have also unanimously concurred in the Call. God hath also inclined his heart to accept the invitation. The 25th day of June is appointed for his ordination. This, therefore, is to request you to come by Pastor and delegate and unite with the Pastors and delegates of other churches in setting him apart for the work, to which we trust the Holy Spirit has called him. The Churches to whom application will be made are Cheshire, North Haven, Palmer, 1st. in Brookfield, New Braintree, Hardwicke, and the two at Greenwich. The Council will convene at the house of Deacon William Paige Wednesday 20th of June 11 A.M. Wishing you Grace, Mercy and Peace may be multiplied unto you abundantly, we subscribe ourselves your Brethren in the Faith and Patience of our Common Lord.

Daniel Gould

William Paige Committee in behalf of the Church

David Brown

Ware, May 31, 1792.

Rev. Aaron Hall to be communicated.

Upon the assembling of the council the Rev. Moses Baldwin of Palmer was chosen moderator, and Daniel Foster of New Braintree scribe. Benjamin Trumbull of New Haven opened with prayer; the charge to the candidate was de-



livered by Ephraim Ward of Brookfield; the right hand of fellowship was assigned to John Foot of Cheshire. Aaron Hall<sup>1</sup> of Keene and Joseph Blodget of Greenwich took parts in the services, and Benjamin Trumbull preached the sermon.<sup>1</sup>

Amiable relations between pastor and people were at once established. Mr. Moss's appreciation of the generous provision made for him appears from the following:

#### REUBEN MOSS TO THE WHOLE TOWN,

Greeting.

As it is customary in this Commonwealth for every family to make an Entertainment, I am sensible that the expenses of Ordination have been pretty considerable. And you have been at some Cost and pains in sending to call my distant friends. Desirous therefore of sharing with you in the Expenses of Ordination and of exhibiting a public solid testimony of my grateful sense of your kindness in sending so far to my old friends, I request you to accept five pounds. If you comply with this request, the Assessors may be directed to make a rate bill for this year's Salary, which will amount to only seventy-five pounds.

The Moderator of the Town Meeting of Ware, to be communicated.

Ware, June 26, 1792.

In answer to this, the town voted "to accept of Mr. Moss's gratis."

The installation of Reuben Moss marks an epoch in the life of Ware, — both parish and town. During his ministry of nearly seventeen years, he was a power in religious and

<sup>1</sup> The text was 1 Tim. iii, 1. "This is a true saying if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good thing." Toward the end the preacher speaking with great gentleness and tact says: "I wish now with tenderness and freedom to address the Church and people of God in this town. Men, Brethren and Fathers; Great is the joy which we feel in the happy prospects of this day. We both rejoice with you, and give thanks to God, that after your broken circumstances, you have been enabled with such harmony, to resettle the gospel ministry among you. In the pleasing prospect that God is about to give you a pastor after his own heart 'who will feed you with knowledge and understanding,' and that you will have peace and be edified . . . with what seriousness and constancy should you attend his ministry, pray and strive to promote the great ends of it with respect to yourselves and your children. . . . Spend not your precious sabbaths at home in sloth and drowsiness. . . . Take heed how you hear, . . . live in peace that the God of love and peace may be with you."

educational matters; a true type of the traditional parson of the old days who was *The Person* of the community.

Within a year of his settlement the church revised the articles of faith and church covenant, adding five articles of agreement, the whole being ratified "after repeated examination and much deliberation, after solemn fasting, and united prayers, asking 'Wisdom of God who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not.'"

One of the articles<sup>1</sup> was a virtual repeal of the Half-Way Covenant adopted many years earlier.

Church discipline was established on the strictest possible basis. At a church meeting Feb. 19, 1793, it was "voted that the church are of the opinion *all those faults* which by any means become public, ought to be confessed before the congregation." This meant a double confession, first before "the Church," that is, the church members sitting in council, and then before the entire congregation. The latter was a humiliation scarcely endurable, and it is not surprising that the demand for it more often met a point-blank refusal than a compliance.

When we consider the character of the faults that were most likely to be notorious, we may well wonder what the effect of so public a confession would be upon a mixed assemblage.

It is reported that education and morals improved very much during Mr. Moss's ministry. The man himself was characterized<sup>2</sup> as "of ardent piety, of refined feelings, and somewhat distinguished as a biblical scholar. As a preacher he was plain and practical and enforced his instructions by a blameless example. Many will long remember him as the faithful and affectionate friend of the young. In his labors for this class of the community he was indefatigable. He was remarkably particular and felicitous in attention to the district schools. Though at the time of his settlement the schools were in a very low and disordered state, they soon became much improved through his attention and influence. By his effort in this department of his labors, he

<sup>1</sup> The entire document is of interest to the student of New England Theology, but it is too long to be quoted in a general history.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Reed's "Discourse."

was instrumental in preparing a large number of young men to engage in the instruction of schools in this town and vicinity. By this means he greatly raised the tone of moral feeling and the standard of education among his people. Twice in his ministry he was afflicted with severe turns of derangement. He died, deeply lamented, on the 17th of February, 1809, in the fiftieth year of his age. 'The memory of the just is blessed.' "

The epitaph of Mr. Moss at the old cemetery at the Centre is as follows:

In memory of the Rev. Reuben Moss of Ware who died Feb'y 17, 1809 in the 50th year of his age & in the 17th year of his ministry.

Here lies the messenger of truth. His theme divine, his office sacred, his credentials clear. By him the violated law spake out its thunders & by him, in strains as sweet as Angels use, the Gospel whispered peace. In doctrine uncorrupt; in language plain, & plain in manner. Much impress'd himself, as conscious of his awful charge, & anxious mainly, that the flock he fed might feel it too.<sup>1</sup>

It must not be supposed that the sojourn in Ware of this saintly man was altogether untroubled. It looks, in fact, a little as if his mental derangement may have been caused or aggravated by his trials. Some serious difficulty was being experienced at the end of 1802, when, as appears from the records, his mind gave way.<sup>2</sup> At that time a committee was chosen "to wait upon the Brookfield Association at their next session for their advice relative to the situation of the Rev. Mr. Moss," and meanwhile preaching was hired for three or four Sundays. In the following March a committee of twenty-one members was appointed to confer with Mr. Moss relative to some demands made by him, there being a question as to whether agreements with him had been faithfully carried out. Then in May another committee was appointed "to settle with the Rev. Reuben Moss." Things

<sup>1</sup> From Cowper's "Task."

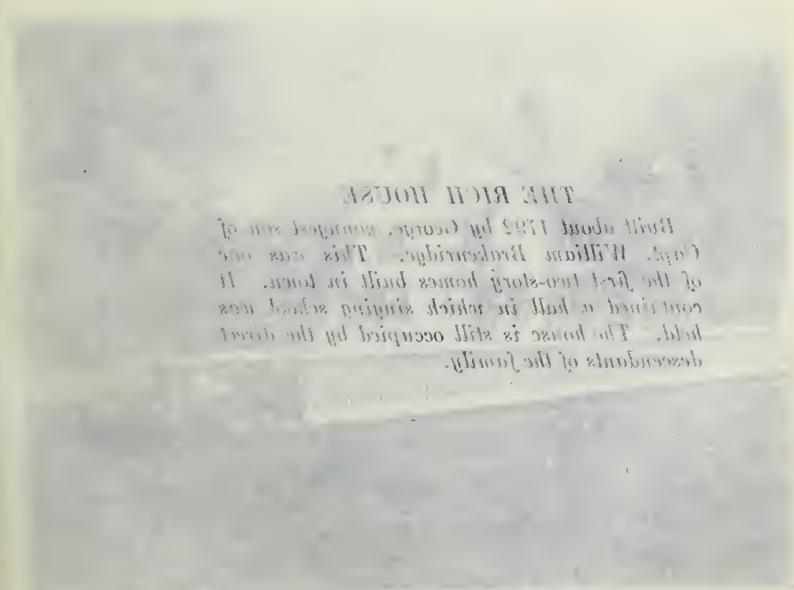
<sup>2</sup> Mr. Moss was adjudged "a non-compos person," and his estate inventoried Aug. 9, 1802. George Breakenridge was appointed guardian. On March 10, 1803, the selectmen certify that Rev. Mr. Moss is restored to sanity. During his derangement, which was a form of melancholia, he was treated with a harshness that would not be tolerated today, being shackled about the ankle, and chained.





### THE MEETING-HOUSE AT THE CENTRE

This building, erected in 1760, replaced the  
earlier structure which had served the Parish  
since 1750



### THE RECTORY HOUSE

Built about 1785 by George, youngest son of  
Capt. William Brinkley. This was one  
of the first two-story houses built in town. It  
contained a hall in which singing school was  
held. The house is still occupied by the direct  
descendants of the family.









went badly that summer, and at the end of September, at a special meeting, it was "Voted that the Rev. Reuben Moss be dismissed from the pastoral care over the Church and people in this town, and to serve him with a copy of said vote." But no action appears to have been taken by the church in the matter,<sup>1</sup> and in May, 1803, the situation was again before the town, at which time it was voted that Mr. Moss be continued as minister of the parish.

Soon after the installation of Mr. Moss the need of a new meeting-house, to replace the building that had answered the parish requirements almost fifty years, began to press upon the town. The old question as to location was again raised, and various committees were appointed to consider the matter. Surveys were made, meeting after meeting was held; but it was impossible to agree upon a new site. The matter dragged, and the town was forced to repair the old meeting-house for the time being. After years of fruitless delay the obvious decision was reached, to set the new building upon the town land close to the old meeting-house. The building was to be financed by a sale of pews as located on the plan which was drawn, submitted to the town, and accepted.

In September, 1798, it was "Voted to allow the pound to be taken and used in preparing the foundations." The contract for the building was awarded in December of the same year as follows:

These Presents witnesseth to the agreement made between the Committee appointed by the Town of Ware to build a Meeting House in said Town on the one part and Ezekiel Baxter of Spencer in the County of Worcester on the other part viz The said Ezekiel Baxter hereby promises and engages for himself his heirs Executors administrator and assigns To Build a Meeting House in said Town of Ware (at the place that is agreed by said Town of Ware to set the Meeting House) and to do the same in the following manner that is to do the whole of the work part to a House that is fifty seven feet long and forty four feet wide and is about Twenty eight feet post with a porch at each end of said House that is twelve by thirteen feet bigness

<sup>1</sup> The church records show a gap from June, 1800 to June, 1809.



and of suitable height Said House and porches to be well and completely Timbered Studded and Braced and the whole of the framing work and finishing work outside and inside and plaistering above the underpinning to be done in the best approved manner in the Judgment of such workmen that are competent to do the part of a Meeting House the outside of said House to be finished by the fifteenth day of October next and the residue of said work of every description to be done by the fifteenth day of October which shall be in the year Eighteen hundred, and the said Committee on there part in behalf of said Town of Ware do hereby promise and ingage that they will seasonably provide at the spot where said House is to be built the whole of the Material of every description of whatsoever name or Nature that will be needed for said House and such that shall be suitable for the same and for doing the work as above express'd to give or cause to be given to him the said Ezekiel Baxter the sum of Eleven hundred Dollars one half of said sum to be paid by the fifteenth day of October next to be paid in some drover or buchers note that can be well recommended payable in sixty days with Interest and the other half to be paid by the fifteenth day of October in the year Eighteen hundred in the like note of hand with interest and to procure for the accommodation of him the said Ezekiel Baxter the use of house room while he is doing the work to said House and to carry one thousand feet of white pine boards that is suitable for window sashes to his house at Spencer and to bring a load of provisions from his house to Ware and also to fetch the sashes and other work that shall be made out of said boards to the place where it shall be wanted and if it shall so happen that said outside of said is finish'd before the fifteenth day of October next in that case said committee ingages to pay the interest for said sum of the first payment from the time of finishing said outside untill the same is paid and upon condition that there is a failure in either party then the Damage to made good to the satisfaction of the Injured party.

In witness whereof the parties have interchangeably Subscribed there hands this fifteenth day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety eight

N. B. it is understood by the parties that the committee is to be at the cost of raising said House Excepting said

Ezekiel Baxter time in which he is to assist in raising the Same in the foregoing Bargain

Ezekiel Baxter	}	Committee
Daniel Gould		
Simeon Cummings		
Isaac Pepper		
James Brakenridge		
George Brakenridge		
Thomas Patrick		

The "raising" was arranged for June, 1799. It was in this year that Isaac Pepper and some others petitioned the town for permission to place a cupola upon the new building. A subscription was raised, the frame put up and fastened to the house, and the town then informed that it was at liberty to finish it or not as it chose. This was called "A right Pepper trick," an expression that remained current for two generations. In July, 1800, the town voted a sum sufficient to finish the cupola. At the same time there was much dissatisfaction over the "pillows" in the meeting-house, the location of which had to be changed several times. As the new building approached completion it was voted to sell the old meeting-house, to be removed within ten days of the occupation of the new one, the pews being reserved to their several owners.

The work on the cupola in 1799 seems not to have been satisfactory, and in 1801 a committee was appointed

to see that the deck of the Cupola is corked and made tite so as to prevent the water from penetrating through and also to finish glaizeing s<sup>d</sup> Cupola and other panes of glass which are broken in the meeting house and fasten the upper case-ments of the windows so as to prevent them from making an Interruption in time of publick worship.

Voted that the front door of the meeting house be bolted as soon as the Speaker hath entered.

In 1807 a number of citizens proposed to give the town a bell, whereupon it was "voted that there may be a bell placed upon the deck of the cupola in this town, upon some conditions." The conditions were that "the bell be pur-

chased and hung upon said deck free from any cost or expense upon said town either by tax or otherwise." This was to prevent a repetition of the "Pepper trick." The proposed subscribers did not meet the conditions, and no bell was hung until 1826.

A little more than a year after the death of Mr. Moss, the Rev. Samuel Ware was invited to settle as minister, town and church concurring in the call. There was much discussion over terms of settlement, which, however, were finally adjusted as follows:

Voted to give Mr. Samuel Ware five hundred Dollars Settlement on condition he should be an ordained Minister in the town of Ware fifteen years, and if he should not be continued fifteen years, in that proportion for the time he shall continue to be our Minister and the residue to be refunded again to the town, Said five hundred Dollars to be paid at the time of ordination.

Voted to give Mr. Samuel Ware three hundred & eighty Dollars Salary per year so long as he shall continue to be an ordained Minister in the town of Ware, he to have and receive the annual premium of twenty Dollars which is annually due from said town of Ware, to the Minister; making in the whole four hundred Dollars annually.

From the church records we learn that "the Rev. Samuel Ware was ordained to the pastoral watch and care of this Church and people in Ware, Oct. 31, 1810."

Mr. Ware proved a useful minister for more than fifteen years, and gathered 197 into the church, 177 by profession, and 20 by letters from other churches. He was dismissed in consequence of ill health in 1826, and the following vote of the town indicates the respect in which he was held:

Voted unanimously, that agreeably to his request, we dismiss and cordially recommend the Rev. Samuel Ware, as an exemplary Christian, and an able, judicious and faithful minister of the gospel.

During Mr. Ware's ministry, in 1815, it was "Voted to call this branch of the Church Universal in Ware, 'The Church of Christ in Ware.'"











The same Council that, at his own request, dismissed Mr. Ware in 1826, ordained as his successor Mr. Augustus B. Reed. The invitation to Mr. Reed to settle in Ware, a document of very considerable length signed by a committee of fifteen members, together with Mr. Reed's answer, is found in the Town Records, also a full account of all arrangements for the ordination, together with a list of fifteen neighboring churches invited to take part in the exercises. This is the last affair of the kind to occupy the attention of the citizens assembled in town meeting. In 1833 the State Constitution was altered, separating Church and State and making the support of religion voluntary.

Mr. Reed was a native of Rehoboth, and graduate of Brown University. Tradition describes him as a man of great dignity of bearing. He continued as minister of the first parish until June 5, 1838, when he retired on account of failing health. He died September 30 of the same year, aged nearly 40, and was buried in the old cemetery at the Centre.

It may be recalled that twenty dollars of the minister's salary was described as "annually due from said town of Ware to the minister." This was the income from the "Ministerial fund," which as has been told, came to the town treasurer for investment in 1789. On April 1, 1833, a committee was chosen to investigate the subject of the fund, and to take legal advice in regard to it. The committee recommended that the town treasurer give a note for \$333.33 in behalf of the town to the deacons, provided the deacons as trustees give a discharge to the town from further claims. The recommendation was adopted, and the following receipt was entered upon the records:

Received of Horace Goodrich Treasurer of the Town of Ware \$333.33 in full for the Glebe lot deeded by John Read and others to Jacob Cummings and John Davis Deacons of the first church in Ware and their successors in office as trustees, which lot was afterwards appropriated to the use of the Town by order of the Legislature and in April 1833 reclaimed by the said Trustees.

Eli Snow  
Enos Davis

Ware, Feb. 6, 1834.



The year of Mr. Reed's settlement was also the year of the formation of the Second Congregational Society in the east part of the town commonly known as Ware Factory Village. From this time the strength and influence of the First Church begins to wane. The old church building continued to be the town-meeting house for a number of years, but even that glory was to depart with the building of a Town Hall at the village in 1847.

Little more remains to be told.

The Rev. Harvey Smith served the church from 1838 to 1840.

Rev. William E. Dixon, of Enfield, Conn., a graduate of Williams College, was ordained Jan. 14, 1841, and dismissed May 26, 1842.

Rev. David N. Coburn, from Thompson, Conn., a graduate of Amherst, was ordained Sept. 21, 1842, and served until April 17, 1854. In 1843 the church building was remodeled in its present form.

Rev. Seth W. Banister served the parish from May 23, 1855 to June 1, 1857.

Rev. Ariel P. Chute, installed Sept. 22, 1857, served until May 21, 1861.

Rev. Wm. G. Tuttle, installed Oct. 10, 1861, served until April 12, 1887. During this pastorate, — the longest in the history of the church, — 157 members were added.

Rev. Edward S. Huntress began his pastorate May 1, 1888. He resigned May 29, 1889.

Rev. Jasper P. Harvey began as pastor March 2, 1890, and resigned Jan. 3, 1896.

Rev. Edward L. Chute began service April 4, 1896, and closed his work Nov. 25, 1906.

Rev. Fred E. Winn became pastor Jan. 1, 1907, remaining until Sept., 1909.

Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, the present pastor, began his work Dec. 1, 1909.

A few words regarding the music of the church may be of interest to some.

March, 1785. The town voted "to adopt Dr. Watts' Psalms and Hymns to be sung in the congregation. Voted that they begin next Sabbath."

Previous to this, Tate and Brady or Sternhold and Hopkins had been used. The change was made during the re-



vival services of Rev. Jeremiah Hallock, probably through his influence.

The whole congregation joined in the singing, the deacon "lining out" the psalm.

March, 1790. "Made choice of Doctor Rufus King & Solomon Bush, & Mr. George Breakenridge, Queristers for the year Insuing."

"Voted that the Deacon Read one Verse or more at a time according as the tune may Require."

1796. "Voted to allow Silas Thompson £3.,17.,6 for teaching singing school."

Solomon Howe, "a celebrated teacher of music" came to Ware in 1789 or 1790. He is one of those men ordered to leave town within 15 days in 1790 (the order being afterwards revoked), and is described as "Solomon Howe, from the County of Worcester, Singing master."

1798. John Jenkins, Dr. King and George Breakenridge were elected Queristers.

Dec. 1799. "Voted the contents of an obligation which the town holds against Solomon Bush be appropriated for a singing school." A Committee was appointed to hire a singing-master and arrange for the school.

1800. Solomon Bush, George Brakenridge, John Jenkins, John Gardner and John Steel were elected Queristers.

1805. "Voted \$50.00 for singing school, which is to be held in different parts of the town."

1807. "Voted \$4.00 toward paying Mr. Silas Thomson for teaching singing school."

1810. "Voted to raise \$50.00 for the instruction of singers."

"That those who belong to Mr. Burt's Society <sup>1</sup> receive their proper proportion of said \$50.00."

1814. "Voted \$50.00 to support singing in the meeting house."

One cannot contemplate without emotion the changes that have passed over the town and especially the First Parish; its small beginnings amid a poverty that was proverbial, its growth in strength and numbers through almost a hundred years, an increase such that the last minister called before the division exclaimed in words of Scripture on accepting the call, "Who is sufficient for these things!" and finally

<sup>1</sup> The Baptist Society just over the line in Hardwick.

its decay, none the less tragic because inevitable. The old church stands today in its smiling valley, peaceful as the green fields that surround it, a landmark, witnessing to a period that never can be revived when coaches daily passed its doors, and the militia trained in its shadow, and it was in every sense the centre of life for the community. In the church-yard sleep a great multitude who knew and loved the church as their spiritual home, and for it made sacrifices that we can scarcely appreciate

A new generation, almost wholly of alien parentage, fills our streets today. But the thoughtful among them, whatever their religious affiliation, cannot but feel respect and honor for the Mother Church of their adopted town.

## VI

### SECULAR MATTERS

It has been seen that Ware was created a parish and precinct on Dec. 7, 1742. This meant independence in religious affairs only, though the inhabitants of the parish were permitted to choose such local officers as fence-viewers, highway surveyors, hog-reeves and tything men, besides the necessary assessors, collectors and committees for parish and precinct expenses. The people, however, were still under the selectmen and constables of the town to which they belonged.

A misunderstanding in regard to the parish limits was set right by the General Court, and the parish given definite bounds in 1750. But our inhabitants were not satisfied for long with district and parochial rights only. They desired full independence in all local matters as soon as they felt themselves strong and numerous enough. The warrant issued Feb. 6, 1761, for a meeting to be held March 9, following, contained the following article: "To see what Corse you will take in if you will agree to git town privaleages;" and at the meeting held March 9, they "Voted to Send A Petition to the General Cort to see if they will Allow us Town Privaliges, and Jos. Foster to see that it is Dun." Later, at a meeting held Oct. 2, of the same year, "Voted to Allow to Joseph Foster for gitting the Parish set off as a town, one pound Eight Shillings and Eight pence;" "Voted to grant one pound Sixteen Shillings & Eight pence for further Charges in giting the parish sot of as a Town."

Among the State Archives we find the following concerning the erecting of Ware into a District <sup>1</sup> under date of June 2, 1761:

<sup>1</sup> General Court Records, Vol. XXIV, p. 16.

A Petition of Joseph Foster Agent for the Inhabitants of Ware River Parish Praying they may be invested with the Priviledges of a Town or District.

In the House of Representatives; Ordered that the Petitioner notify the nonresident Proprietors of the Lands in said Parish with a copy of this Petition together with this order by inserting the substance thereof in one of the Boston news Papers three weeks successively that so they shew cause if any they have, on the first Thursday of the next sitting of this Court why the Prayer thereof should not be granted.

Also, under date of Nov. 17, 1761:<sup>1</sup>

A petition of Joseph Foster Praying as entered 2nd June last. In Council Read again and it appearing that the Petitioners had pursued the orders of Court with regard to Notification. Ordered that the Petitioners have liberty to bring in a Bill for erecting the Parish of Ware River into a District.

In the House of Representatives Read and Concurred.

Herewith is given the act itself<sup>2</sup> for erecting Ware River Parish, so called, in the County of Hampshire, into a District by the name of Ware.

Whereas the inhabitants of Ware River Parish, so called, in the County of Hampshire, have represented to this Court the great difficulties and the inconveniences they labor under, in their present situation, and have earnestly requested that they may be incorporated into a District, — Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council & House of Representatives, —

(Sec. I) That the said Ware-River Parish, so called, bounded as follows; vizt. Southerly, upon Palmer, including that tract of land in said Palmer which is the property of the heirs of Isaac Magoon, deceased; easterly, upon Western & Brookfield; northerly, upon Hardwick & Greenwich; & westerly, upon Swift River, be & is hereby incorporated into a District by the name of Ware; and that the said District be & hereby is invested with all the privileges, powers & immunities that Towns in this Province, by law, do or

<sup>1</sup> General Court Records, Vol. XXIV, p. 109.

<sup>2</sup> Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, Vol. IV, p. 86.



may enjoy, that of sending a representative to the General Assembly only excepted.

And be it further enacted, —

(Sec. II) That Eleazer Porter, Esq<sup>r</sup> be & hereby is directed & impowered to issue his warrant, directed to some principal inhabitant within said District, requiring him to warn the inhabitants of said District, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at some suitable time & place in said District, to choose such officers as are necessary to manage the affairs of said District.

Provided, nevertheless, —

(Sec. III) The Inhabitants of said District of Ware shall pay their proportionable part of all such Town, County & Province charges as are already assessed, in like manner as though this act had not been made; and that part of the Province tax which is the proportion of the said Magoon's farm,<sup>1</sup> shall hereafter be abated the district of Palmer, and be borne & paid by the said District of Ware. (Passed November 25; Published Nov. 28) (note) signed Nov. 28th according to the record.

Thus Nov. 28, 1761, is the date of the incorporation of Ware. It is called a "District" rather than a Town; the only difference between the two being that a Town possessed the right of sending a representative to the General Court while a District did not.

At the beginning of the Revolution, Aug. 23, 1775, an omnibus act of the General Court admitted Ware, together with many other districts, to full town standing. The clause of the act referred to is as follows:

And be it further Enacted and Declared by the authority aforesaid, That every Corporate Body in this Colony, which in the act for the Incorporation thereof, is said and declared to be made a District and has by such act granted to it, or is declared to be vested with the Rights, Powers, Privileges or Immunities of a Town, with the Exception above mentioned, of chusing and sending a representative to the Great and General Court or Assembly, shall hereafter be holden, taken, and intended to be a Town to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

<sup>1</sup> The Magoon tract was set off to Ware from Palmer in this same year, and that is what is referred to above.

A study of the early records of the town throws much light upon conditions of life and the interests of the people. Religion evidently stood first in importance, and the meeting-house was the centre of the town in more senses than one. Here not only religious meetings were held, but public meetings of all sorts. It was the Town House, built by and for the people. At times it was in demand for secular meetings nearly as often as for religious. The number of town meetings held in a year was astonishing, no less than seventeen meetings and adjourned meetings being recorded for a single twelve months. The occasions were evidently regarded as public holidays, and broke the monotony of an isolated existence. Temporary adjournments were made to the neighboring tavern, or to the home of some accommodating citizen, where a barrel of cider or a keg of apple jack gave welcome refreshment in the midst of the toils of settling knotty problems in regard to abatement of taxes, redemption of counterfeit bills, providing for the poor, or repairing the meeting-house. With such interruptions the meetings were sometimes rather protracted. A former generation enjoyed many a laugh at the expense of a group of citizens dwelling in the east part of the town who returned to their homes late one night with the report that the spring freshets had carried out the bridge over Muddy Brook. They had forded the stream after fruitless search for the accustomed crossing-place. The morning light, however, revealed the bridge still standing in its accustomed location.

The inns figured largely in the early life of the town. John Downing was licensed as an innholder in 1754,<sup>1</sup> and from that time continued to dispense hospitality for thirty-one years at his tavern on the bluff just beyond where West Street crosses Muddy Brook. Downing's was a famous tavern in its day. It is mentioned in many annual issues of Low's Almanac as the stopping-place in Ware for stages plying between Boston and Albany.<sup>2</sup> In 1763 Jonathan Rogers also

<sup>1</sup> Court Records, Northampton.

<sup>2</sup> John Downing died in 1791. His widow survived him many years. She farmed the poor, as is learned from frequent payments by the Selectmen, thus making a livelihood. She is constantly referred to as the Widow Downing in the records, but was popularly known as "Old Granny Downing." The following story was current seventy-five years ago.

After the death of the widow the house fell into decay. One day a party of

A review of the early records of the town shows much light upon the character of life and the interests of the people. They are especially noted here for importance, and the manner in which the centre of the town is presented. They are the records of the early years of the town, and the records of the early years of the town. It was the Town House, built by and for the people. It was the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town, and the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town. The records of the town are the records of the town, and the records of the town are the records of the town.

### THE GOULD TAVERN AT WARE CENTRE

The Gould Tavern, or as it was called, the Gould Tavern, was built by and for the people. It was the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town, and the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town. The records of the town are the records of the town, and the records of the town are the records of the town. It was the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town, and the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town. The records of the town are the records of the town, and the records of the town are the records of the town.

### REV. EZRA THAYER'S HOUSE

*Built soon after 1759. It was bought by Deacon William Paige in 1777, and was known for years as the Paige Tavern. It stands on the south side of the road, about half a mile west of the Centre.*

The records of the town are the records of the town, and the records of the town are the records of the town. It was the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town, and the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town. The records of the town are the records of the town, and the records of the town are the records of the town. It was the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town, and the place where the people met to discuss the affairs of the town. The records of the town are the records of the town, and the records of the town are the records of the town.









was licensed. His tavern was in the south part of the town, and the house is said to have been located on the Palmer Road a short distance below the Golf Club House, on the opposite side of the street. His license was recorded last in 1796, giving him a period of thirty-three years as innholder. The County Road Commissioners made this house their headquarters in 1769.

Downing and Rogers are mentioned in the almanacs. That of Nathaniel Ames first mentions Rogers' tavern in 1765. In 1766 he gives Downing and Rogers, "on the upper Post Road to Brookfield." For twenty years these two names appear. Bickerstaff's Boston Almanac also mentions them.

These are the only licensed inns recorded in pre-Revolutionary times — so far as the Court Records show us the situation.

While the Revolution was at its height, in 1778, three new innholders appear upon the scene; Ebenezer Nye, James Lammon and Joseph Patterson. Patterson's license is recorded for but a single year. That he was longer in the business, however, is shown by the fact that his inn is mentioned in Ames' Almanac for the year 1774 and 1775 as on the road from Northampton to Boston. His place cannot be located with absolute certainty, but probably stood on a part of the old Hadley Road long since discontinued, about half a mile north of the Babcock Tavern. Patterson purchased a place in that locality in 1769, holding it until the foreclosure of a mortgage in 1782. Lammon was licensed six years in succession. As his farm was on the Boston Post Road west of the schoolhouse in District No. 3, it is reasonable to locate his tavern in that quarter. The farm remained in the Lemon family until recent times.

Ebenezer Nye's tavern is no less famous than John Downing's. His license ran from 1778 to 1788, omitting '83 and '86, and is again recorded in 1791.<sup>1</sup> It was to his

young men who had been hunting were overtaken by a thunderstorm when near the house, and ran to it for shelter. One of the boys stepped up to the bar, which stood in the great living-room, and rapping loudly upon it cried, "Granny Downing, bring us out a hot toddy." Instantly there was such a rattling of toddy-sticks that the whole party took to their heels, preferring rain to ghosts.

<sup>1</sup> It is by no means certain that the County Records are complete.

tavern that town meetings were frequently adjourned; sometimes, as in 1789, for fifteen minutes, more often for the remainder of the session. Nye's tavern stood on what, in his day, was the main road from the meeting-house to Brookfield and New Braintree, a little below "Crowell's orchard,"<sup>1</sup> near where Miss M. R. Howard now lives. A still, the foundation stones of which are yet to be seen, stood opposite on the north side of the road. Nye owned a farm of about 200 acres extending easterly from Flat Brook.

He was elected pound-keeper in 1781, the pound adjoining his land.

Isaac Pepper was licensed as retailer from 1781 to 1804. His house now forms the back part of the Gould Tavern. Pepper put up the frame of the main part, but never finished it. Capt. James Cargill is said to have bought the place and completed the house. John Osborne kept tavern here before the property went to Seth Gould about 1825.

The wood-colored house on the corner by Flat Brook is still sometimes referred to as the Crowell Tavern. Joshua Crowell<sup>2</sup> held an innkeeper's license from 1811 to 1817, and a retailer's license to the end of 1827. John Shaw dispensed hospitality in this tavern a good many years before Crowell bought the place.

The year 1782 shows no less than eight taverns within the town limits; the four already mentioned, and one kept by John Quinton, one by Lott Whitcomb, one by John Bullen, and one by Phille Morse.

The Quinton or Quentin farm was west of Beaver Lake, and it is probable that the tavern was near where the road from the Centre entered the Turnpike. John Quinton was followed by Thomas Quinton, the two men covering the period from 1782 to 1800.

John Bullen, on the Turnpike, and Lott Whitcomb figured

<sup>1</sup> Some manuscript notes of the late Miss Cornelia Gould have helped in determining the location of this most interesting tavern.

<sup>2</sup> In 1812 Joshua Crowell received an order for \$1.85 from the Selectmen "for spirits for Aseneth Winslow's infant." One of the choice bits of tradition to shock modern sensibilities relates how "Priest," Ware's chore-boy, used to go down to the store of Joshua Crowell, our pioneer Methodist preacher, with two jugs, one for molasses, the other for rum. Storekeepers were not allowed to sell liquor to be consumed on the premises. Now it happened that Joshua Crowell's store encroached on the Common, so when Crowell held only the retailer's license, thirsty patrons used to buy their rum, and drink it in the corner that stood on town land.









as tavern keepers but a short time. Phille Morse was licensed but two years. His house was on the Brookfield road, just south of Howard's Grist-Mill. Phille Morse owned a large apple orchard on the slope of Coy's Hill. It is said that he brought the young trees from Rochester, New York, on horseback. Fifty to a hundred casks of cider a year were made from the orchard when in its prime.

The next innholder of importance was Joseph Cummings, who had a license from 1785 to 1792 inclusive. Cummings appears in 1784 as a retailer "to sell at retail out of his house there to be spent out of doors only."

Mr. Benjamin Cummings, who died in 1876 in his 100th year, was a son of Joseph Cummings. In a page of recollections taken down by the late Dr. Yale we read that "Mr. Cummings' father kept the only store at Ware in his house, near a large tree between the houses of Lewis N. Gilbert and J. Beaman, and sold coffee, tea, molasses, rum and sugar. His mother, whose name was Temperance, did the retailing mostly, excepting when considerable rum was to be drawn, when Ben was sent up from the field to help her."

Samuel Patrick and Deacon William Paige received licenses in 1791, and John Shaw in 1794. They continued in the business for varying periods.

Paige's tavern was at the Holbrook place, now known as the Buffington place, nearly a mile west of the meeting-house. Mr. Hyde in his Address says that this was the house formerly occupied by the Rev. Ezra Thayer. Here in 1787 the Ecclesiastical Council that dismissed the Rev. Benjamin Judd was entertained; said Council consuming six gallons of rum at the town charge.

William Doane secured a license for the single year 1800, and Isaac Magoon, 2nd, for 1801. Joshua McMaster, Lott Dean and Royal Tyler all tried at innkeeping for short periods.

Archibald Babcock first comes before us as innholder in 1807, remaining in the business twenty years. The Babcock Tavern is one of the landmarks of the town. Here the first post-office was established, in the year 1815, and Timothy Babcock was appointed postmaster. The Babcock Tavern, and the Gould Tavern at Ware Centre, mark

the transition from ancient to modern conditions. Seth Gould kept the inn just west of the meeting-house the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century.

But conditions were changing. As the village grew in importance the Centre waned. Ware was ceasing to be a merely agricultural community. Then the building of railroads robbed the country tavern of its chief usefulness. And the habits of the people were changing too. It is remembered by one of the oldest inhabitants that when Seth Gould gave up tavern-keeping he declared that "cold water had killed him."<sup>1</sup>

Alpheus Demond (of Muddy Brook fame) in 1814 built the "Old Tavern House" in the village where Hitchcock's Block now stands.

Here<sup>2</sup> it was that Lafayette visited, and Mrs. Cynthia Loomis, now living on Bank St., and her sister, Mrs. Elmira Whittaker, who resides on Palmer Road, were among those who met him and took him by the hand. Mrs. Loomis is now 86 years old, but she retains all her mental activity, and tells of Lafayette's visit, and of her meeting with him with evident pleasure. She recalls the fact that at the time he took her hand, he said to her and her companions, "I rejoice to see you, my children, enjoying the liberty for which we fought."

At this time there were about 1600 inhabitants in the town. There were no buildings on the south side of Main Street, but only a greensward. The men of the town stood in line, and after the general had met the ladies at the tavern, he came across the street and shook hands with the men. He is described as a man of commanding presence, with fine features. He was accompanied by his son, and after the ceremony was over took his carriage and drove out of town, being accompanied as far as the home of Calvin Morse by the townspeople, walking Indian file on either side of the carriage, the women on one side and the men on the other, he bowing to right and left in recognition of the plaudits of the crowd.

<sup>1</sup> I have before me the pledge book of the "Cold Water Army of Ware, 1843." It contains the names of 171 males and 233 females. The motto is this,

"So here we pledge perpetual hate,  
To all that can intoxicate."

From an article in the *Ware River News*, March 27, 1890.



The Ware Hotel, built in 1825, stood at the corner of Main and North Streets, North Street at that time being called West Street, as it bounded the western limits of the village. It was known as the Phelps Hotel in 1854. This hotel was burned in 1864. Then came the Delavan House, which with its stables occupied the space where the Mansion House now stands.

As has been seen, much of the life of the town centred about the inns. Illustrious travellers from time to time passed through on the coaches, stopping for a meal, or a night's lodging, at which times a fat fowl was quickly dressed and roasted on the spit before the great open fire, and the best linen sheets were spread upon the four-post bedsteads.<sup>1</sup> President Dwight of Yale College passed through the south-west corner of the town by the Boston Post Road in 1810. He wrote in his diary: "Ware borders on Belchertown south-eastward. Its soil is generally of a very inferior quality. A traveller formerly passing through this town observed, that he thought the land was like self-righteousness; for the more he had of it, the poorer he would be."

An abundance of servants and retainers were found about the tavern and its stables. When the town poor were auctioned off to the lowest bidder we find the innkeepers ready to take them at very low prices, the custom of the time being to get as much work out of the paupers as possible to eke out the small allowance made by the town for their support. An indefinite number of persons, old and young, could be kept busy holding horses, turning spits, caring for chickens, waiting upon travellers, and doing chores for master and mistress, for cook and for stableman.

Great coaches drawn by four or even six horses passed daily along the main thoroughfares of the town. The extent and importance of the traffic explains a fact remarkable to us of today, namely, that many principal roads are recorded as being laid out no less than eight or ten rods wide. Some important roads were built and kept in repair by private capital. The Petersham and Monson Corporation built a road from Athol through Petersham, Dana, Greenwich, Ware and Palmer to Monson. This road leads through

<sup>1</sup> The inventories of innkeepers list separately the linen and cotton sheets.

the Beaver Brook Valley, passing the Babcock Tavern, and one or two others already mentioned, and is still known as "The Turnpike." The provisions of one of the old charters may be of interest:

The said corporation may and shall be authorized to erect five turnpike gates on the same and shall be entitled to receive of each traveller or passenger, at each of said gates, the following rates of toll, viz.: for every coach, phaeton, chariot or other four wheel carriage drawn by two horses 25 cents, and if drawn by more than two horses an additional sum of 4 cents for each horse: for every cart or wagon drawn by two oxen or horses  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents and if drawn by more than two oxen or horses an additional sum of three cents for each horse or ox: for every curricule 16 cents: for every chaise chair or other carriage drawn by one horse  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents: for every man and horse 5 cents: for all horses, mules, oxen or neat cattle led or driven, besides those in teams or carriages 1 cent each: for all sheep or swine at the rate of 3 cents for one dozen. Provided, that nothing within this act shall extend to entitle the said corporation to demand or receive toll of any person who shall be passing with his horse or carriage to or from public worship, or with his horse, team or cattle, to or from his common labor or to or from any mill, or on the common or ordinary business of his family concerns within the said town, or from any person or persons passing on military duty.

The stage not only carried passengers, but considerable quantities of freight as well. The drivers acted as agents in trade, carrying country products, cheese, butter, eggs, hides, wool and tobacco to the city, bringing back tea and coffee, rum, molasses, dried codfish, salt, calico, pins and needles in exchange. Every person raised sheep in the early days, as may be seen from the old wills and inventories. Tobacco was grown in the Connecticut Valley as at present. Many of the stage drivers were famous characters, and the names of a few who journeyed through Ware have come down to us. There were Sam and Bill Gould, George Warner, George Sedgwick, Art Hyde and Major Morgan.

The heavier and more bulky freight was transferred in teams, many of our men being accustomed to make one or two journeys to Boston each year on their own account,

with loads of charcoal, potash and other commodities. It cost twenty dollars a ton for transportation of goods from Boston, and it was a hard week's work for a team to go and return.<sup>1</sup>

Naturally there were but few stores in town. The one kept by Joseph Cummings just after the Revolution has been mentioned. A deed of a parcel of land at the Centre south of the county road and close by Rev. Reuben Moss's east line, dated 1799, makes mention of "a store and barn where Capt. Deane now trades." This was undoubtedly the store of Lott Dean, of which traditions have survived.

In 1812 an order by the Selectmen for goods mentions "Mr. Snow's store." This was the store of Eli Snow, who "retailed" at the Centre from 1811 to 1826.

The care and support of the poor was always a matter of concern to our town. A study of this subject corroborates the opinion universally held, that the citizens were indeed extremely poor, oftentimes unable to supply those nearest to them with bare food. The assistance of such first comes before the precinct in 1762, when the matter is brought up for consideration. It was decided and ordered that Jacob Hinds and his wife be kept at work and provided for, thus following the precept of Scripture. At the same time the Widow Pike is allowed a bushel of corn a month for keeping her mother. At the same time the Widow Carley, one of the original members of the church, becomes a public charge, and a couple of orphan children receive allowances for clothing and "doctoring."

For twenty-five years the poor are cared for with due respect for their feelings. Arrangements for their support were made by the selectmen at a reasonable rate, while special nursing and doctoring in case of illness were held to be extras. The bills were brought before the town and settled without comment, and occasionally there is a charge for clothing or shoes. At the same time measures were taken to prevent paupers, or persons likely to become paupers, belonging to other towns, from settling here, and more than once such persons are warned out, or removed bodily, the constable receiving a small sum for performing the service.

<sup>1</sup> Hyde, "Historical Address."



By the close of the Revolution the number of persons unable to support themselves had greatly increased, and that together with the extreme hardness of the times prompted a new departure, which hitherto had not been deemed necessary. The poor were put up at auction to the lowest bidder. This custom, adhered to for many years, created one of the most pathetic chapters of our history. One hardly needs to read between the lines of the Town Records to appreciate the tragedy of the poor and the aged, in broken health, "vendued" year after year, moving from house to house, waiting for death to release them.

"Old Patrill" goes at five shillings a week;<sup>1</sup> the Patrill boy at two. Doubtless he was a promising lad, and handy at the chores. Then up goes Rebekah Allen. James Lammon bids her off at one and nine pence a week. Lammon kept an inn where there was plenty that Rebekah could do, and plenty of scraps. It was Lammon who had bid off old Patrill and the boy. But Rebekah did not find hotel life to her taste, and made some other arrangement, the town at a later meeting voting the thrifty innholder six shillings for his disappointment. Rebekah's arrangements, however, lasted less than a year, and she is put up again, this time bid off by Ebenezer Nye for two shillings eleven pence a week. So she had to live at a hotel after all. Old Patrill goes to Phille Morse at four shillings. Apparently the Patrills were an unfortunate lot, for in 1790 Lois, only 19 years old, and her baby, are cried at the town meeting. James Brackenridge bids the pair off at a penny a week — exclusive of clothing and doctoring. It was evidently a charity on Brackenridge's part which he could not continue indefinitely, for he only keeps them the stipulated six months, after which poor Lois's price goes higher. In 1792 the Selectmen's books show charges for keeping Lois, for nursing the child, and "one order to James Brackenridge for making a coffin — 3 shillings."

The other Patrill children (there were several of them)

<sup>1</sup> An amusing document in the State Archives is a petition of the Town of Ware, dated 1788, to be relieved of Joseph Patrill. He is described as a native of the Island of Guernsey, who settled in Ware without the consent of the inhabitants. He was never a citizen of the town, never paid taxes nor owned property, and had always been an object of public and private charity. The State declined to relieve the town.



were bid off year by year at diminishing prices until they were old enough to look after themselves.

These are but examples. The list of those obliged to ask assistance at some time is long, and includes names that stood high in the community. My impression is that the town provided as generously as it was able for the needy. It was a period when no one had too much, and it was absolutely necessary to keep expenses down. In 1784, when the problem was becoming serious, the town voted to build a work-house; but the intention was not carried out. In 1790 the Selectmen issued a warrant to Jacob Pepper directing him to warn out of town fifty-one persons, mostly husbandmen, laborers, blacksmiths and cordwinders.<sup>1</sup> The order was for those persons "who have come into this town for the purpose of abiding therein not having the town's consent, to depart the limits thereof with their children and all under them, within fifteen days." This warrant has attracted the attention of former historians, and has been widely quoted. One point has hitherto escaped attention, on account, perhaps, of the warrant being misplaced in the record book. Jacob Pepper reports on April 5, that he has given notice to the persons mentioned, and on the same day the town "voted to reconsider the former vote: viz. for to warn out all those who are subjects of it."

The difficulty of the parish to meet the Province Tax at the beginning has been referred to. In 1753 the tax was £9, but from that time on it shows a steady increase. By 1760 it had risen to £47,,7,,10. During the next ten years it fluctuates, dropping as low as £14,,15. But it leaps up again to £311 in 1777-78, after which date it is called the State Tax, rising in 1779-80 to the enormous figure of £4027,,16,,6. These figures, however, fail to give any very clear idea of the actual conditions, for currency was greatly depreciated. In 1781 the poll tax was £30,,10. The previous year £2,000 was raised to repair the highways, at \$20 a day. But these figures represent Continental paper currency. The whole subject of currency and finance is extremely complicated, and can by no means be explained in any small space. The following, culled with considerable labor from the authorities

<sup>1</sup> Probably cordwainer or shoemaker.

on colonial finance, may help the reader to a somewhat intelligent understanding of the situation.

In the very earliest days wampum, the Indians' medium of exchange, was quite generally adopted by the settlers. Naturally its circulation was limited. In 1652 the Colonial Mint was established, and the Pine Tree Shilling was coined. It contained less silver than the shilling sterling, in hopes of keeping it in the Province; but it was exported nevertheless. At best there was no adequate supply of these shillings. Spanish and other coins of many denominations were current. Pieces of Eight, about six shillings in value; Cross Dollars, Rix Dollars of the Empire, Mexican, French, Portuguese and Dutch coins — all of varying values, and all greatly debased by "rounding" and "clipping." At an early date "Colony Bills" bearing the endorsement of the Province Treasurer furnished a supply of currency. A Province Bill was adopted in 1702, and was, like its predecessor, a certificate of indebtedness on the part of the Province for the face of the bill, said to be in value equal to money. At a later date the value was expressed in ounces of silver at a fixed rate. The bills containing the phrase "In value equal to money" were called Old Tenor Bills.

In 1736-37 came the first series of New Tenor Bills, a name they retained about five years. The second New Tenor Bills were emitted in 1741-42. They usurped the title "New Tenor Bills," and those previously spoken of under that title became "Middle Tenor Bills." In 1744 the third and last form of New Tenor Bill was adopted. These were described as "Bills of the Last Tenor."

Of the Old Tenor Bills there were twelve denominations; of the second New Tenor eighteen; of the third nine. Later six others were added, bringing the number of different bills in actual circulation up to fifty-five. Then there were thirty-one varieties of Province Bills prior to 1713, eight denominations of the first New Tenor, or Middle Tenor, of 1737, — all these besides the very small denominations known as "tokens." As all of the bills of this appalling catalogue were freely counterfeited, the situation can only be left to the imagination.

It has been observed that the year 1737 marked the dividing line between Old and New Tenor. The Massachusetts issues of 1737 were at 6 s. 8 d. per ounce in silver, or £4.,18 per ounce in gold. The government attempted to fix the value of New Tenor at one for three of the Old, but the current rate became one for four.

At the outbreak of the Revolution the various New England governments had issued paper money for immediate use. By 1778 the whole currency system had broken down hopelessly. Continental and State paper flooded the land, debtors paying their obligations in bills worth hardly 5% of their face value. By 1780 Continental money was at forty to one of silver. Bancroft gives the value of the dollar "buoyed up by the French Alliance" as 20 cts. It fell to 12½ cts. in January, 1799, to 5 cts. in April, to 2½ cts. in December.<sup>1</sup>

As a result of all this confusion, it was usual to resort to "specie, or Country pay" which meant payment in produce or live-stock. Towns frequently adopted schedules fixing the money value of labor and the ordinary commodities. The Town Records contain frequent references to such valuations. That of 1780, when Rev. Winslow Packard became the minister at a salary of £45, is quoted entire:

Wheat, at five shillings per bushel. Rye, at three shillings and four pence per bushel. Indian corn, at two shillings and six pence per bushel. Pork, at three pence half penny per pound. Beef, at two pence per pound. Sheep's wool, at one shilling and six pence per pound. Butter, at seven pence per pound. Labor, at two shillings and six pence per day in hay time.

It was also voted to pay Capt. Brackenridge, the old way, or eighty double Continental money. Deacon William Paige was also allowed seven shillings a week old way, or seventy-two double continental.

The law of the Province required all male inhabitants above sixteen years of age, including servants, to pay a poll tax. Exemptions, however, were common; from sickness, lameness, blindness, old age, or other infirmity.

<sup>1</sup> Here we find the origin of the slang phrase "not worth a continental."



Troopers in war-time were exempt, and generally all citizens over sixty years of age. The power to exempt was largely invested in the several towns, and much time was taken at town meetings in voting exemptions to individuals. Petitions for exemptions, however, were not always granted, the constables being directed to collect.

The office of constable was by no means popular. In early days he was expected to serve without pay, and in many instances men were compelled to accept appointment. The principal duty was that of making the rates and collecting the taxes. The constable was held strictly responsible for the full amount of the tax, unless rates which he could not collect were abated by the town. After some years it was found necessary to pay for the constable's services, and the office began in 1782 to be let out to the lowest bidder, provided he could secure acceptable bondsmen. At the same time the making of rates began to be paid for by the time required in their making, and the duty was assigned to regularly elected assessors.

One of the regular orders of the town from the beginning was that swine should run at large, yoked and ringed.

Besides the ordinary officers, selectmen, clerk, treasurer, constables, highway surveyors, fence-viewers, hog-reeves and assessors, we find occasionally tything-men, deer-reeves, and measurers and inspectors of various commodities such as beef, pork, wool, shingles, etc., etc. Deer-reeves were elected from 1765 to 1785, and the assumption is that after that date they were not needed because of the scarcity of the large game. Wild turkeys were once common, and tradition has it that the latest of these were killed in Phille Morse's orchard about 1825. The last black bear was shot about the same time. No reference is made in the records to wolves or other dangerous beasts. A bounty of eight pence a head was offered for crows killed within the town limits, and twenty-five were paid for by the Selectmen in 1790.

Domestic manufactures<sup>1</sup> kept many fingers busy in the old days. Every household had to be provided with home-made garments, and as families were large much labor was required in carding, spinning and weaving. Good clothes

<sup>1</sup> For much of the following I am indebted to a Ms. left by Miss Cornelia Gould.



of homespun however wore for several seasons, and fashion demanded no change of style. The gowns and frocks of women and children were generally of black or red ground checked with a thread or two of another color, and the fabric was dyed in the yarn at the domestic fire-place. Logwood, Nicaragua (commonly pronounced Niggerauger), and Campeachy chips, with various native products such as sumach seeds were used, with alum and copperas to set the dye. Deep blue and white in a four-thread check was in favor for skirts and aprons. There was a tape-loom for making apron-strings in every home, — a light frame with one treadle, on which a few threads of warp could be strung, while a ball of yarn held in the hand was put back and forth, and beaten up with the back of a table knife. The soft elastic band made a safe string with which to tie a toddling youngster to the bed-post to keep him away from the open fire-place.

Sheep's grey, that is, black and white wool mixed in the card, was much in vogue for men's everyday wear. Instead of an overcoat the farmer wore a long frock or short heavy blouse of deep and pale blue check. The dye-pot filled with indigo was a fixture in the warm chimney corner; a great brown earthen crock covered with a board upon which the children could sit.

About 1810 the country storekeeper began to keep factory-spun cotton yarns to put out for weaving on hand looms. The pay was seven cents a yard for plain white, and half a cent more for blue and white apron check. A domestic gingham was checked with white, indigo blue, copperas yellow and madder red.

Eli Snow and Joshua Crowell were dealers in these products, and pay was usually taken out of the store. Bonnet braid made of split straw was another article of home manufacture. Rye straw was cut when in the milk and bleached in the sun. It was then cut into lengths at the joints and further whitened with sulphur smoke. Then the straws were dampened, split open, the inner surface scraped, and then separated into strands with a gauge, — all this before beginning the braid which sold at from one to three cents a yard according to width and fineness. Straw braiding went

out in the thirties when the straw shops began to import the braid in large quantities.

Sheets, blankets and coverlets for the beds had to be provided by the housewife as well as clothing, and help was often hired to aid with the spinning. Girls were glad to go out and spin for fifty cents a week. They were treated as one of the family, and when there were unmarried sons, frequently became so in fact. One of these handmaidens was told by the mistress on beginning work that "she did n't care nothin' how she spun her yarn if only 'twas fine, handsome and even."

The making of the rose coverlet and other fancy patterns was a fine art, and could be done only by highly skilled weavers. A few could comb wool, and spin it into worsted. This spinning was from a lock held over the finger instead of from a roll of wool.

One must not suppose, however, that there were only homemade clothes. Well-to-do men had their broad-cloth coats for Sundays, and the women an occasional silk dress, though their garments lasted a lifetime and are especially mentioned in the appraisals of estates. English prints of the best quality were to be had at fifty cents a yard. Gold bead necklaces were highly valued by the women, and a string cost from eight to ten dollars. Ambitious girls worked out a whole season to purchase a string of beads, which was considered valuable, not only as a badge of respectability, but as having a medicinal value in warding off disease.

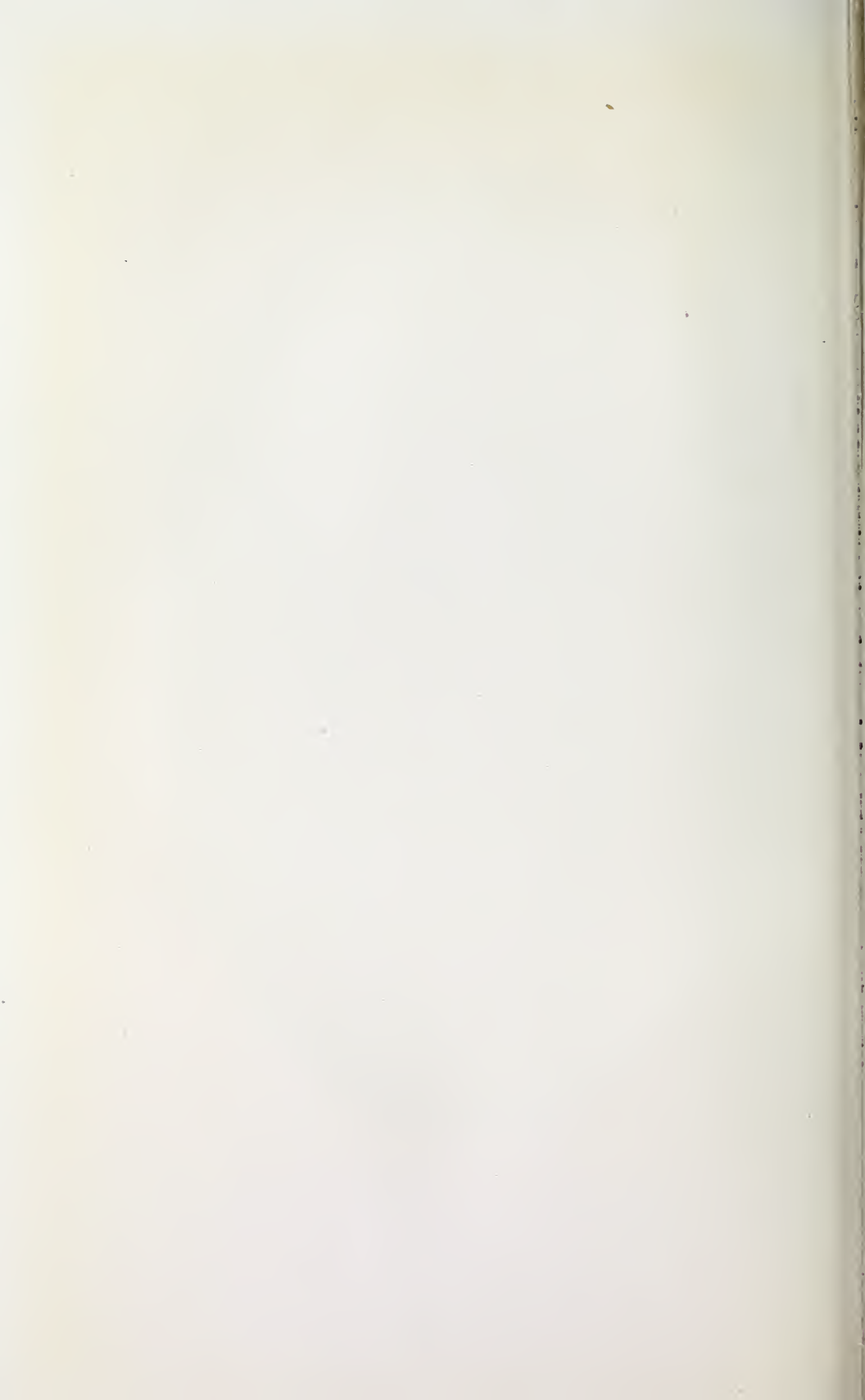
As a rule people were comfortably fed and clothed. The staple bread was Rye and Indian, great loaves of which were baked in the brick ovens. Shiftless or unfortunate families undoubtedly suffered hardship. A story is preserved of one of the former kind that shall be nameless here. Being inadequately supplied with bed clothing, broad slabs of wood were heated at night before the fire and laid on top of the meagre blankets, under which the family slept with such comfort as so miserable a makeshift afforded.











## VII

### THE COLONIAL WARS AND THE REVOLUTION

#### FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS

THE TOWN RECORDS contain no references whatever to the French and Indian Wars. Information concerning the part in those contests taken by our early inhabitants is laboriously culled from Muster-Rolls and other papers preserved in the Mass. Archives. Such incomplete information as those ancient papers might give is difficult to get at, for they are indexed only by the names of the men that appear upon them, not by the towns from which the men came.

The French and Indian Wars extended altogether from 1689—1763, though with several intervals of peace. They were simply the American side of a hundred years' struggle for supremacy between the English and the French nations. The first two wars were fought before any white man had made his home between the Ware and Swift Rivers; but they were fearfully disastrous to our neighbors. Brookfield was wiped out in 1693; Deerfield was destroyed in 1704. Scarcely a town in the Connecticut Valley escaped pillage, burning and murder at the hands of the savage allies of the French.

The third war, commonly referred to as "The Old French and Indian War" lasted from 1744—49, breaking out after a long interval of peace. During that period Ware was a Parish and Precinct, and was of little importance either socially or politically. It does not appear to have been called upon to furnish men for the army. But Jabez Omstead took part in the famous expedition against Louisburg on Cape Breton Island at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, which Sir William Pepperrell of Maine, with a force of a few thousand Yankee farmers and fishermen, set out to capture. The siege lasted 49 days, and the fort capitulated June 17, 1745. Jabez Omstead had been connected with the militia

from the time he could carry a gun, and in the Louisburg expedition he had the rank of Captain, commanding the 10th Co. in Col. Samuel Willard's 4th Mass. regiment. His residence is given as Brookfield on the Muster Roll, indicating that, though he had lived for fifteen years in Ware River, his military relations were still with his former home.

(No Precinct Meeting is recorded for the spring of 1745, the first one for the year being called for July 6. This was held at Capt. Jabez Omstead's house, and his bill for boarding ministers was allowed.)

Timothy Brown had an honorable record in this war, as may be seen from the following petition, with action upon it by the General Court.

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Spencer Phips Esq. Leut. Governour and Commander in Chief of this Province. The Hon<sup>ble</sup> His Majesties Council & House of Representatives in General Court assembled this 11th day of June 1750.  
The Memorial of Timothy Brown of Ware River Precinct in the County of Hampshire

Humbly sheweth:

That on the 5th Day of May 1746 as he was travelling between the two Ashuelots<sup>1</sup> on his return from Boston (where he had been to carry advices of the enemy & the Damage they had done) he was Captivated by the Indian enemy & by them carried to Canada & was there detained a long time a prisoner viz one year three months & fifteen days & was stripd of his Arms Ammunition & Clothing to a very considerable value, underwent great Hardships & Difficulties during his confinement — Your Memorialist therefore prays your Honour's Compassionate Consideration of his losses & misfortune & that as your memorialist was then in the service of the Province he may be allowed pay as a soldier during the time of his Captivity & that he may receive out of the Treasury also the value of his Arms & Cloathing then lost or that he may be otherwise reliev<sup>d</sup> as to your Honours in your great wisdom shall seem meet & yr. Memorialist as in Duty bound shall ever pray —

In council June 13, 1750 Read & Concurred

G. Willard Secy.

Consented to  
S. Phips.

<sup>1</sup> Near Keene, New Hampshire.

In the House of Rep<sup>s</sup> June 13, 1750

Read & Ordered that the Pet<sup>r</sup> be allowed out of the publick Treasury for his time and loss mentioned the sum of Eleven Pounds three shillings and four pence. And that the Commissary Gen<sup>l</sup> be directed to deliver him either a gun and pistol or two guns out of the Province store.

Sent up for concurrence

T. Hubbard Spkr."

The fourth and last of these struggles 1754-63 was by far the greatest, and from its importance is often known as "The French and Indian War." It was to decide a question of supreme importance, namely, whether the English or the French should control the American Continent. The fighting line extended from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the Mississippi River, through the great valleys of the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Hudson, along the shores of Lake Champlain, and even down the Connecticut Valley as far as Greenfield. This war involved the whole of the American Colonies, and in it George Washington won his spurs.

Hampshire County was thrown into a ferment by numerous attacks upon its outposts at Dutch Hoosac (now within New York), at Stockbridge, Pittsfield and Lenox. The frontier towns of New Hampshire suffered greatly, the enemy appearing as far south as the Massachusetts line.

Col. Israel Williams of Hatfield commanded the regiment from Hampshire County, to which Ware River sent a Company of 39 men. The Muster Roll may be seen in the Mass. Archives.<sup>1</sup>

A Muster Roll of Capt. Jacob Cummins' Company for Col. Israel Williams Ridgement that went to ye relief of Fort William Henry when Besieged by the Enemy in Aug. 1757 — Marched from Ware River so called.

Jacob Commins, Capt.	Jacob Commins jun. Cent <sup>l</sup>
Joseph Scott, Lev <sup>t</sup> .	Moses Bartlit,
Moses Smith, Ensign	Sam <sup>l</sup> Donsmore,
Israel Omsted, Sergt.	Charles Kilham,
W <sup>m</sup> Brakenridge, "	Elijah Marsh,

<sup>1</sup> Vol. 95, p. 542.



Danl Nolten,	Sergt.	Joseph Patril,	Cent <sup>l</sup>
Samuel Sheirman,	"	Danl Slate,	"
Ben Commins,	Corp.	John Allin,	"
Lammon Blackmore,	"	Ebenezer Allin,	"
John Downing,	"	Henry Gilbert,	"
Ben Bartlett,	Cent <sup>l</sup>	Benjamin Grifen,	"
David Bartlett,	"	Daniel Cross,	"
Ebenezer Knap,	"	Jonathan Olds,	"
James Harwood,	"	Joseph McMickle,	"
James Lammon,	"	Isaac Maggoon,	"
Richard Rogers,	"	Judah Marsh,	"
Abijah Scott,	"	Jotham Lymon,	"
Simeon Bakon,	"	James Lull,	"
Abr. Comings,	"	John Lull,	"
Isaac Commings	"		

Ware River Parish, Jany. 5th, 1758.

Errors Excepted

Jacob Cummings.

The roll was sworn to by the Captain before a Justice of the Peace of Worcester County on the date subscribed, Jan. 5, 1758.

The expedition was not a long one, the length of time for the greater part of the men being  $15\frac{1}{3}$  days. The Company marched to Kenderhook, with the following exceptions: Moses Smith and Benj. Bartlett to Sheffield, Jonathan Olds to Greenwood, Judah Marsh to Blanford, Jotham Lyman, Francis Lull and John Lull to Westfield. The total pay-roll of the expedition footed £75,,2,,11.

Another old paper in the Archives is this:

"1757, August 6. The following to an account of men victualled by Luke Bliss at the cost of the province, they being sent to the Relief of Fort William Henry when besieged."

A long list of men follows from Ware River and neighboring places, each charged with one meal. The paper has no further interest for us — unless for the extraordinary spelling of the names of the men.

Further information concerning those who bore a part in this war is fragmentary and incomplete, but it is clear that our townsmen bore their full share of the toils of the war.

Muster Roll of the Co. under command of Capt. Samuel Robinson of Hardwick on Crown Point Expedition from Feb. 18 to Dec. 24, 1756.

Edmund Jordan, Private. Enlisted Mar. 23 to Nov. 18. Died.

Elijah Marsh (Judah Marsh Father or Master), Mar. 23 — Dec. 2.

Job Smith, Mar. 18 — Dec. 2.

Descriptive list of Capt. Samuel Robinson's Company in Col. Ruggles' Regiment.

Edmund Jordan, Ware River. Elijah Marsh, Ware River.  
Amos Marsh, Born at Ware River Job Smith, " "  
but last lived at Hardwick.

Muster Roll dated 1756. Names of those who have served within two years last past:

Moses Omstead Jabez Omstead Moses Old

These and others are in Capt. Ingersoll's Company, and are taken from a list of the persons in the South Regiment in County of Hampshire under command of Col. W<sup>m</sup> Worthington, that have been employed in His Majesty's service within two years last past according to the return of the several captains.

A Muster-Roll of a Company of Foot in His Majesty's Service under the Command of Captain Andrew Dalrymple of Petersham in a Regiment raised by the province of the Massachusetts Bay, for the Reduction of Canada, whereof Jedidiah Preble Esq. is Colonel.

Expedition from March 30 to Nov. 30. Among the names are the following, given as from Ware River:

Daniel Knowlton, Ensign, at £3,10 per month. Term of service 8 mo. 16 days.

John Allen, Private, Thomas Crowfoot, Private.

William Blackmore, " Moses Omstead, "

Abraham Cummings, " David Thomas, "

Isaac Cummings, "

All for 7 mos. 19 da. @ £ 1,16 per mo.

A Company on Crown Point Expedition, — 102 Men.  
From Ware River:

Adonijah Brooks,	Private,	who deserted.
John Davis,	"	Discharged Aug. 22.
Abner Elger,	"	Served through.
Ebenezer Knap,	"	Discharged May 27.
Noah Marsh,	"	Under age. Served through.
Thomas Marsh,	"	" " " " " "

Muster Roll of Company under John Burke, Esq., Capt. in expedition to Crown Point from Mar. 31, 1759 to Dec. 25 following.

From Ware River:

Ebenezer Cummins,	Mar. 6 to Nov. 30
Noah Marsh,	Apr. " " Dec. 1
Nahum Powers,	" " " " "
Telle Burk,	" " " " "
Ephraim Marsh	" " " " "

Enlisted by Capt. Elijah Smith and others — Col. Israel Williams' Regiment, for the intended expedition against Canada in 1759.

Joseph Scott of Ware River enlisted in 1760. Asaph Scott given as his father or master.

Joseph Scott, a minor, of Dudley. Joseph Scott of Ware River given as his father or master.

Muster Roll of the Company under command of Salah Barnard of Deerfield, Capt.—Serving Westward from 31 March to 31st Dec. 1759. Receipted (Endorsement) Feb. 9, 1760.

From Ware River:

Simeon Bacon,	Apr. 6 — Dec. 1
Sol <sup>o</sup> Cummins,	" " — " "
Jacob Cummins,	" " — Nov. 16
Experience Cross,	" " — Dec. 1
James Harwood,	" 18 — " "
David Pratt,	" 6 — " 2
Job Smith,	" " — " 1

About the same time — "Muster Roll of Capt. James Gray & Company from Feb. 15th, 1760 to Jan. 1st, 1761.

Ebenezer Cummins, Private, of Ware River, Mar. 17 to Dec. 2.

A Return of men enlisted for His Majesty's Service for total Reduction of Canada, 1760.

Endorsed as Ensign Taylor's Return.

In the list is the name of Simeon Omstead, aged 18 years, Born at Wair River, though his residence is given as Dorchester, Canada.

Muster Roll of the Company etc. Under Command of Wm. Paige, Esq. Capt.

Joseph Pattourell, Private of Ware River. Served 34 weeks, 4 days. Wages £15,,11,,2.

Most of the members of this company are from Brookfield, Hardwick and New Braintree.

Date of acceptance of pay-roll Feb. 13, 1760.

Evidently service was in 1759.

Muster Roll of men under command of Capt. Salah Barnard of Deerfield, Feb. 19 to Dec. 12, 1760.

Itham<sup>r</sup> Amidown, Private, Apr. 4 to Nov. 6

Ephraim Ayers, " " 9 " " 30

Jedidiah Ayers, " Mar. 27 " " 30

Nathan Cummins, " Apr. 18 " " 30

(Solomon Blackmer Father or Master)

Samuel Smith

Abijah Scott } (Joseph Scott Father or Master)

Jos. Scott

James Taylor

Benjamin Thompson (John Thompson Father or Master).

The war practically came to an end with the capture of Quebec by General Wolfe after the gallant defence of that city by Montcalm, the famous battle in which the illustrious generals on both sides fell. But the treaty of peace was not signed until 1763, at which time the French King gave up all his American possessions except the Louisiana Territory. Of greatest possible importance to the Colonists was the ending of the struggle with the Indians, a struggle that had gone on for more than a hundred years. Children had been born, had lived out their lives, and died right here in our own neighborhood without knowing what it meant to live



in peace and security. Families had been massacred; men, women and children dragged to Canada as captives, many of them never to return. There was not an early family in western Massachusetts but suffered mentally or materially from the enmity of the savages incited by their French allies, and the roll of those who died cruelly at their hands can never be made up. The close of the war brought a sense of security never before known, and the real development of the country began.

### PERIOD OF THE REVOLUTION

The last French and Indian War was practically over by the end of 1759, though the formal treaty of peace was not signed until 1763. A period of twelve years was to elapse before the alarms of war should again disturb those who dwelt upon the Manour of Peace. During this period the men of Ware were learning and developing the intricacies of self-government. The higher offices were held by

Jacob Cumings  
William Breakenridge  
John Davis  
Maverick Smith  
Samuel Dunsmore  
Abijah Davis  
Samuel Sherman  
John Downing  
Isaac Magoon  
Jonathan Rogers

William Bell  
Abraham Cummings  
Israel Cummings  
Joseph Foster  
Andrew Rutherford  
Solomon Cummings  
Benjamin Cummings  
Samuel Blackmer  
Joseph Gray  
James Lammon

The Provincial Census of 1764 gives the following items regards the population of the District of Ware:

Houses . . . . .	74
Families. . . . .	76
Men . . . . .	109
Women . . . . .	126
Boys under 16 yrs. . . . .	127
Girls " " " . . . . .	122
Negro (Female) . . . . .	1
Making a total population of .	485

In many good services. Families had been massacred, homes razed and children dragged out to be sold as slaves, many of them never to return. There was not an early landing in southern Massachusetts but suffered awfully as disastrously from the scourge of war as ever visited by them French when they were full of them who died cruelly at their hands but were to death up. The close of the war brought a new era of peace and order known and the real development of the country began.

### Period of the Revolution

During French and Indian War was practically over by 1763, though the formal treaty of peace was not signed until 1763. A period of twelve years was to elapse before the storm of the Revolution broke through those who slept upon it.

#### THE LAFAYETTE ELM

*This superb tree stands on the road from Ware to Palmer, south-west of Ware Village. It is thought to be about three hundred years old. Its shadow at noon is one hundred and twelve feet in diameter, and the trunk is nearly twenty feet in circumference. Its perfect contour, together with its remarkable size, attracts the attention of every passer-by.*

The Historical Census of 1790 gives the following figures showing the population of the District of Ware:

White	74
Female	78
Male	100
Slaves	101
Deaf and dumb	107
Orphan	102
Neuro (Insane)	1
Making total population of	302







At this time there was a slight excess of women, due perhaps to some of the more adventurous men pushing out into the wilderness in search of better lands after the close of the French and Indian Wars. Ware was not regarded as a prime agricultural region.<sup>1</sup>

A simple calculation on the basis of the two census reports, that for 1764 and that for 1790, indicates that the town's population at the outbreak of the War, in 1775, must have been about 617.

The first intimation that the Town Records give of the coming conflict was the election of Capt. William Brakenridge, in March, 1775, as delegate to the Provincial Congress. At an adjourned meeting three weeks later it was voted to adopt the resolutions of the Congress. Again on May 20 it was

Voted to Chuse three men to take turns to atend the s'd Congress. Made choice of Capt. Wm. Breakenridge, Ens. Joseph Foster, Dea. Thomas Jinkins to atend s'd Congress, a free Gratis — the District bearing their Expense."

In October of the same year Capt. Brakenridge's account as delegate was allowed, — £,,6,,8,,2, and Ensign Foster's £3,,9,,6.

The first Provincial Congress met at Salem Oct. 7, 1774. John Hancock was elected chairman and Benjamin Lincoln clerk. It was adjourned to meet at Concord on October 11, when a permanent organization was effected with the same presiding officer and clerk. Two more sessions were held in 1774 at Cambridge. A great amount of business was transacted; a Committee of Public Safety appointed, and one of inquiry into the state of the Province. Measures were passed for the improvement of the militia, for the gathering of warlike stores, for the organizing of an army, and for the enrolment of 12,000 minute men. Towns were urged to provide all necessary equipment for this force. The Committee of Safety was authorized to procure ammunition and supplies, and sixty thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose. A Receiver General was appointed, to whom

<sup>1</sup> In 1790 the proportion of males and females was reversed. the census figures giving to Ware 394 males and 378 females.

constables and tax collectors were directed to pay all moneys received by them.

The second Provincial Congress, attended by 230 deputies, was convened Feb. 1, 1775, at Cambridge, which held three more sessions, two at Concord and one at Watertown; and a third Congress was convened at Watertown May 31 to July 19, 1775. At these meetings it was resolved that the measures of the former Congress for putting the Colony in a complete state of defence be rigorously pursued by towns and individuals. So the Royal Rule in Massachusetts passed into the hands of the people. The last town meeting in Ware called in "His Majesty's Name" was held on March 4, 1776. The meeting in September was warned without stating any authority, while with the beginning of 1777 the warning is "In the name of the State of Massachusetts and of the People."

In Provincial Congress, May 1, 1775.

Whereas the Inhabitants of Boston have been detained by Gen. Gage, but at length (by agreement) are permitted to remove with their effects into the country; and it is believed that about 5000 of said inhabitants are indigent, & unable to be at the expense of removing, Resolved that the towns named be requested to take the number specified in this schedule, the selectmen to provide for said inhabitants in the best & most prudent way, and other towns be desired to contribute &c. Reasonable allowance for the support of these persons will later be made from the public treasury." The number apportioned to Ware was 13. It was further "Resolved that the inhabitants of Boston thus removed shall not in future be considered as the poor of said town into which they remove.

On March 4, 1776, our town "Maid Choice of Dec. Jenkins, Lieut Commings and Jonathan Rogers, Joseph Gray, Lemuel Blackmore, Chose a Commity of Corespondence and Safty." Meanwhile the call for soldiers had met with ready response. The "Lexington Alarm" had rung out on the 19th of April, 1775, and on the following day our soldiers were on their way to join their regiment.

The names of those patriots so prompt to answer the call are fortunately preserved in the State Archives.

*Lexington Alarm, 1775.* Minute Roll of men under Capt. Joseph Foster of Ware in Col. Ruggles Woodbridge's Regt. Enlisted April 28th to May 19. Left home April 20th to 22nd. —

Joseph Foster, Capt.	Nathan Davis,	Priv.
William Gilmer, Lieut.	Elkanah Billings,	"
Samuel Blackmer, Sergt.	Steward Kee,	"
Ebenezer Nye, "	Thomas Andrews,	"
John Croft, Corp <sup>l</sup> .	John Rutherford,	"
Judah Symons, Priv.	John Bullon,	"
Jonathan Marsh, "	Jeremiah Gould,	"
Thomas Gilman, "	Noah Thompson,	"
Judah Marsh, "	Miles Jordan,	"
Charles Boney, "	James Damon, Jun <sup>r</sup>	"
Joseph Cummings, "	Gershom Whitney	"
Thomas Sherman, "	Samuel Andrews,	"
Timothy Evens, "	Thomas Jenkins,	"
Nathaniel Wilder, "	Prince Sherman	"
Gersham Whitney, "		

Nor did the enthusiasm speedily evaporate. Volunteers for a three months' enlistment were called for, and the call met with an equally prompt response. The minute men who had responded to the Lexington Alarm were full of enthusiasm, and others had caught their spirit. The following enlistments were made for terms varying from three months to three months and two weeks in April and May:

Muster Roll of the Company under Capt. Jonathan Bardwell, in Col. David Brewer's Regiment.

William Gilmore, 1st Lieut.	James Haven,	Priv.
Thomas Andres, Sergeant	Joseph Hensen,	"
Samuel Whurter, "	Stuard Kee,	"
Nathan Davis, "	Elijah Knights,	"
Baijah Davis, Corporal	Jacob Lazel,	"
Noah Amsdel, Priv.	James McClintock	"
Samuel Andres, "	Jonathan Olds,	"
Eleanah Billings, "	Nathanel Roggers,	"
William Blackmore, "	Prince Shearman,	"
Ebenezer Clarke, "	Abraham Stebbings,	"
Josiah Davis, "	Nath <sup>l</sup> Wilder,	"
Nahum Davis, "	Garsham Whitney, Jun <sup>r</sup>	"
Barnibus Evens, "	Garsham Whitney,	"
Timothy Evens, "		



Evidently most of these men re-enlisted in the same company, together with some others, for an undated document of eight months' service men gives us the following:

Muster Roll of Capt. Jonathan Bardwell's Co. in the 9 Continental Regt., Commanded by Colo. David Brewer.

Lt. William Gilmor	Jonathan Olds, d. Aug. 22
Sergt. Thomas Andrews	Joseph Hixon
“ John Bardwell	Gershom Whitney Junr
“ Abijah Davis	Ebenezer Clark
Thomas Shearman	Barnabus Evins
Nathan Davis	Jacob Lazel
James Haven	Samuel Andrews
Josiah Davis	Nahum Davis
Nathaniel Rogers	Alexander Takels
Noah Amsden	Gershom Whitney
James McClintock	William Blackmore
Nethaniel Wilder	Timothy Evins, d. June 10
Elkanah Billings	Samuel McWharter
Steward Kee	Edman Capen, absent by
Abraham Stebeons	order, and present in
Elijah Knights	his room.

Col. David Brewer was extremely popular in this vicinity. He was a resident of Palmer, a man of military spirit and bearing. Nine sets of “beating papers” were issued to him, and his regiment was rapidly filled up. Nine Captains united in signing the following petition: “We, the subscribers beg to be indulged in joining Col. David Brewer's regiment, in preference to any other.” A large proportion of his regiment was recruited among the Minute Men then present at Cambridge. His regiment, of about 500 men, was known as the Ninth Massachusetts.

In addition to the enlistments already given we find under the year 1775 the name of Joseph McClintock in a Return of Capt. Sylvanus Walker's Co. in Col. Timothy Danielson's Regt.; Cornelius Weeks in a list of Capt. Abel Thayer's Co. in the 8th Regt. of Foot in the Continental Army commanded by John Fellows, Esq., Col., reported at Dorchester in October. Also from a roll of Capt. Jonathan Danforth's Co. in the 9th Continental Regt. commanded by Col. David Brewer, Oct. 7, we learn that Miles Jordin of Ware died on June 11, 1775.



But few names have been found that fit into the year 1776. In a return of men "enlisted for three years or during the war, 1776-1780," is the name of James Haven, for the war, in the 6th Mass. Regt. Haven was the only man from Ware, so far as is known, who served through the entire conflict.

A list of officers chosen in the presence of Col. Samuel Howe as moderator in 1776 gives the following:

William Brakingridge, Capt.  
 Abraham Cummings,<sup>1</sup> Lt.  
 Joseph Foster, Lt.

A Muster Roll of Capt. Oliver Lyman's Co. in Col. Dike's Regt. for their milige, Travelling and Wages.

Dorchester Nov. 27th 1776, 3 mos. to March 1777.

Henry Gilbert . . . .	79 miles
Will <sup>m</sup> Blackmore . . . .	79 "
Ephriam Paddock . . . .	79 "

The year 1777 shows great activity in the movements of the militia.

Pay roll of Capt. Breakenridge's Co. of militia in Col. Porter's Regiment, County of Hampshire State of the Massachusetts Bay. Service under Col. Seth Warner at Manchester.

William Breakenridge, Capt.	Abraham Damond Rank and file
Jno. Foster, Lieut.	George Brakenridge " " "
John Bullen, Sarjt.	Lot Dean " " "
Thomas Marsh, "	Joel Marsh " " "
Nathaniel Wilder, Corp.	Moses Dow, " " "
Edmon Capen, Rank and file	Elkanah Billings " " "
Wm. Anderson " " "	John Croft " " "
Abraham Stebbings " " "	Stephens Jinkins " " "
William Patrick " " "	William Blackemore " " "
Edward Damond " " "	Wm. Morton " " "
Thomas Damond " " "	

Allowed for 120 miles travel from home.

A Pay Roll of Lieut. Josiah Wilson and Company in Col. Porter's Regt. of Militia from the County of Hampshire, Massachusetts State, who marched on an alarm to Rein-

<sup>1</sup> It may be of interest to note that in the multitude of documents bearing on the war, the name Cummings is spelled twenty-eight different ways.

force the army under the command of the Hon. Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Gates, who found themselves and conveyed their own baggage, going and returning, for their pay from the state.

Josiah Wilson, Lieut.	James Gilmore, Privet
Joseph Cumings, "	Simeon Gleason, "
Simeon Stone, Sergt.	John Hooker, "
Joseph Hinds, "	Andrew Harwood, "
Nath'l Gleason, "	Joshua Lazel, "
Prince Sharmon, "	Benj. Merrit, "
Solomon Hinds, Corp.	Jeremiah Powers, "
Philley Morse, Drummer	James Powers, "
Oliver Alden, Privet	Isaac Powers, "
Daniel Bridges, "	David Pattisson, "
Moses Colton, "	William Shearer, "
John Connon, "	Nehem <sup>h</sup> Thomas, "
Joseph Cummings, "	Benja Wood, "
Jonathan Foster, "	Randal Wheeler, "
John Gilmore, "	

Marched Sept. 23, 1777. Discharged Oct. 17, 1777.

Marched 140 miles. Days allowed to return 7. Whole time of service 1 mo. 2 da.

Thos. Andrews and Rheuben Sherman enlisted this year, and, as is shown by a receipt, served three full years. Also Noah Amsden of Ware, but credited to Barre.

Jabez Nye, a private in Capt. Israel Davis's Co., Col. Wigglesworth's Regt., was in service under a three years' enlistment on Sept. 15, 1777. A report dated Camp at Valley Forge, June 2, 1778, states that he died on May 16. An undated document tells us that the following had enlisted in the same Company:

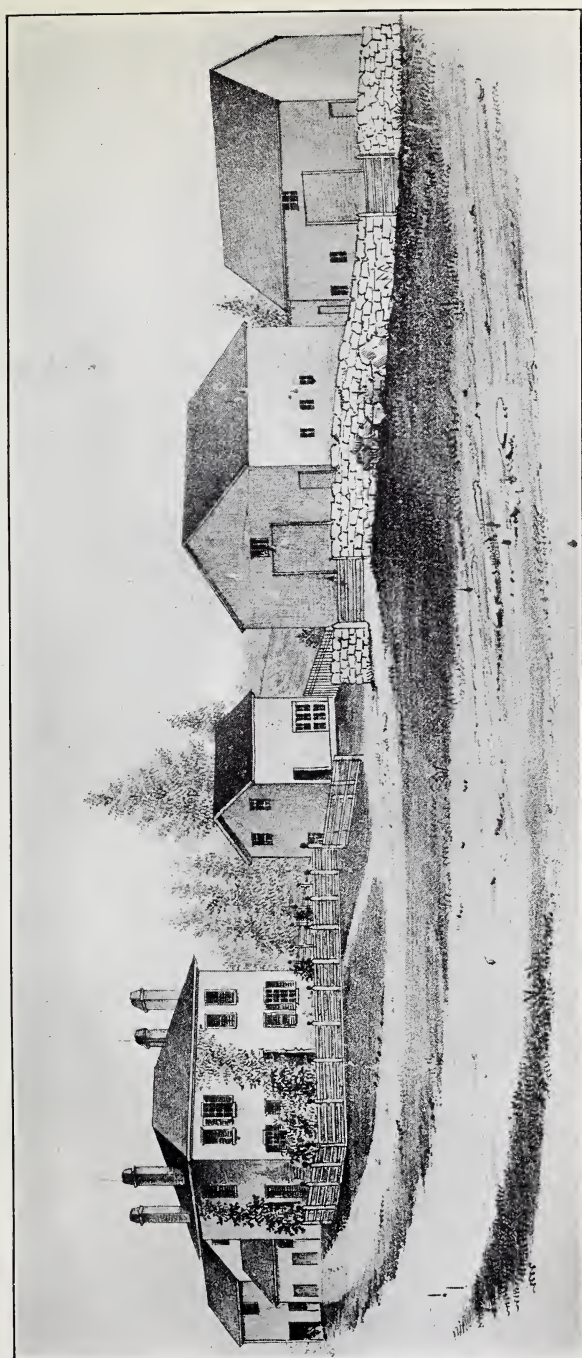
Barnabas Evans  
James Haven

Jabez Nye  
Joseph Nye

A Return of the Men Inlisted or drafted into the Continental Army from the fourth Battalion of Militia in the Co. of Hampshire:

Capt. Wm. Brakenridge	Barnabus Evens
Ebenez <sup>r</sup> Davis	Edmund Evans
Thomas Andrews	Jabez Nye
John Andrews	Joseph Nye









Silas Stephens

Thomas Steele <sup>1</sup>

Joseph Marsh

Rheuben Sherman

James Haven

George Whitney

Sam<sup>l</sup> Camp (transient person)

Inlisted from Capt. Breakenridge's Co. Dated So. Hadley, May 20, 1777. R. Woodbridge Lt. Col.

These men were enlisted for three years' service. In the spring of 1779, a return should have been made by the Captain. A list is found identical with the above, except for the lack of one name, Joseph Nye. The document is of interest from the following at the end of the list:

"I hereby certify that this is the best return I could get from the Town of Ware, which I had from Mr. Jenkins one of the Committee of the Town & a Representative.

The Capt. Wil<sup>m</sup> Breakenridge neglects his duty of making a return, for what reason I cannot say.

B. Mills."

As a matter of fact, Captain Breakenridge wrote his report April 1, 1779, but for some reason it was not received by the proper Committee until April 29, fifteen days too late to be passed upon.

Captain Breakenridge's list differs to such a degree that it is given in full:

Ware Return, Handed in since the Committees sat in the County of Hampshire, In public service, To Col. Ruggles Woodbridge, at South Hadley.

Jabez Nye

Joseph Nye

Joseph Linten

Silas Shephard

Noah Andrews

Thomas Andrews

John Andrews

Thomas Stele

Ebenezer Davis

Samuel Camp

Rheuben Sherman

Joseph Marsh

Garshon Whitney

Barnabus Evens

Abner Lazel

Jonathan Corly

April 1 1779

W. Brakenridge Capt.

Return sent to the Committees April 29, 1779.

<sup>1</sup> From another source we learn that Steele died Feb. 9, 1779. John Wheeler enlisted Oct. 6, 1777, and deserted March 5, 1779.

The following bears no date but is later than 1776:

A Muster Roll for to draw the Billiting Money for a Co. of the Molicia under the command of Capt. Elijah Dwight (of Belchertown)

Serjt. Joseph Foster	Stephon Jinkins
Corp <sup>1</sup> Tho <sup>s</sup> Winslow	Simeon Bacon Jr <sup>r</sup>
Corp <sup>1</sup> Solomon Bush — Diseased	Lot Dean
Samuel Lammon	Silas Dean
Simeon Bacon	Solomon Paterson
Stephon Demons	

All 150 miles from the camp at 1 penny a mile.

The Town Records of March 29, 1777 indicate the popularity of the war.

Voted to raise Eight men for the Continental Army, and to Give Each man twenty Pounds, as a bounty from the town.

Voted to Raise s'd money by the Last State Bill, macking Proper Allowances for Service Done in time Past in the War.

Voted to Chuse a Committee of nine men to make the Raits to Pay the Soldiers. Chose Wm. Breakenridge, David Brown, Leut. Foster, Leut. Cummings, Dea. Jinkens, Serg't Paterson, Serj. Beilling, Samuel Dansmore, a Committee to make a levy on the poles and Estates to pay the above Eight Soldiers.

The difficulty of raising money for the various needs becomes apparent. The exemption of soldiers from the poll-tax, with the payment of military bounties and expenses, made great inroads on the resources of the people. In November, 1777, a committee was appointed to "Remonstrate to the General Cort against Calling in the State's money by Lone."

In April, 1778, it was "voted to Raise the Clothing for the Conatanil Solders, voted to alow six Dollers a pair for shues, and four Dollers a pair for Stoking. Voted to give ten shilling a yard for to(w) cloth, yard wide, Edward Damon Jun. to provide twenty one yerds." In June £30 was granted for the relief of the families of soldiers, £120 to pay

the bounties for four men, and £42 to pay three men their bounty.

A descriptive list of nine months' men enlisted in June, 1778, Colonel Porter's Regt., Captain Brakinridge's Co., gives the following from Ware:

Oliver Newton,	Age 35,	Stature 5 ft. 8 in.
Philip Bartlett,	" 29,	" 6 ft. 3 in.
Silas Marsh,	" 16,	" 5 ft. 3 in.
Abraham Stebbins	(No description)	

In addition we find a "Pay Roll of Capt. Samuel Fairfield's Co. in Col. Nathan Sparhawk's Regt. of Melitia raised for the defence of the United States of America, Sept. 1778."

Duty at Dorchester. Discharged Dec. 12.

Joseph Foster, Lieut.	Asa Foster, Private
Holton Blackmore, Private	Joseph Patroll, "
Phineas Converse,	"

In March, 1779, £100 was voted for the relief of families of men serving in the army. In April it was "voted that the Selectmen Purchase the gunes and sell them at a public vandue to the highest bidder in Town. Voted to sel the Gun Locks at a vandue."

In July a levy was made through the town to supply the quota of nine months' men. At the same time the General Court was petitioned to abate some portion of the state tax.

The names of but three men can be found who were levied in accordance with the above vote. These are found on a descriptive list of nine months' men in the Continental Town and County Rolls of 1779:

	Age.	Stature		Hair and Complexion,	
Nathan Davis,	37,	6 ft.		Dark	
Prince Sherman,	26,	5 ft. 7 in.	" "	Light	
Joseph Hixon,	23,	5 ft. 6 in.	" "	Dark	

Another roll gives Judah Marsh as on duty in the West Hampshire County Regt. at New London.



The following receipt belonging to this year is of interest.

June 17, 1779, 3 year service, Joseph Marsh in Capt. Spurr's Co., Col. Nixon's Regt.

To Cash pd him fr. proceeds of State Lottery	£1 ,, 6 ,, 7
To 3 shirts, 3 pr. shoes, 3 pr. hose supplied by the state at the regulated price	3 ,, 13 ,, 0
To his Proportion of small stores delivered in Camp, at Regulated Price, deducting value of what he paid toward them	2 ,, 11 ,, 7
To a bounty of £20 paid him by, or in behalf of the Town of Ware Mar. 19, 1777 (value)	15 ,, 12 ,, 6
To 33 Months 11 Days Wages paid him by the Continent at 40s per Month £66,, 14,, 8 (Value)	13 ,, 2 ,, 0
To amount of Articles supplied his family at the regulated Price by the town	0 ,, 0 ,, 0
	<hr/>
	36 ,, 5 ,, 8
To Ballance	30 ,, 9 ,, 0
	<hr/>
	66 ,, 14 ,, 8

The above Ballance £30,,9,,0 multiplied by  $32\frac{1}{2}$  to make good the Depreciation, is in current Money £989 ,, 12,,6.

Certified 10 July, 1780.

Several other similar receipts may be found in the State Archives. One of Dec. 31, 1779, shows that Ebenezer Davis was transferred to the Corps of Invalids on Oct. 23, 1777.

In the early months of 1780 one finds only routine votes in regard to the raising of men for the army, the aim being invariably to procure them at as low a rate as possible. On September 12, the town voted to raise £13,680 to pay the soldiers then in the service. One needs to remember the enormous depreciation of currency at the time. In November a committee of three was appointed "to buy the Continental Beaf."

A list of men mustered June 22, 1780, in Captain Brakenridge's Co.

	Age	Ht.	Comp.
Wm. McGown	19	5-7	Dark
James Comings	17	5-8	"
David McClintock	17	5-6	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Shirman	17	5-6	"
Sam <sup>l</sup> Andres	19	5-7	Light
Nathan Pratt	19	5-7	Dark
Benj <sup>n</sup> Marsh	16	5-1	Light
Solomon Fullonder	18	5-5	"
Dan <sup>l</sup> Rogers	40	5-5	Dark

Six months' men, Continental Army from Town of Ware, 1780:

John Bullen,	July 13,	5 mo.	3 da.
Edmund Capen,	" "	5 mo.	
Elkanah Billings,	" "	5 mo.	13 da.
Will <sup>m</sup> Morton,	" "	6 "	4 "
John Henry Putnam,	" "	6 "	16 "

Wages paid by the town, £2 per month.

In the same year Elkanah Billings, John Henry Putman, John Bullen, Edmond Chapin and William Maclain are listed as nine months' men.

In an abstract of sums due on the Roll for the County of Hampshire for supplies of soldiers' families from September, 1777 to Jan. 1, 1780, Ware is put down for £180.,19.

In 1781 the town passed routine votes in regard to enlistments. We find that Capt. Oliver Coney served in Colonel Sears's Regt. from August 12 to Nov. 15, 1781. His travelling allowance shows that camp was 146 miles from Ware. With him, for the same term of service, were Jotham Symons, John Magoon, Jacob Lazell and Ichabod Merrit.

In addition an undated Descriptive List has been found as follows:

James Strickland,	Age 21,	3 years
Elijah Comins,	" 44,	3 "
Daniel Rogers,	" 16,	6 months
William Key Brown,	" 25,	6 "
John Putnam,	" 19,	6 "

Now the town statistics show that Daniel Rogers was sixteen years old on April 29, 1781, which fact enables us

to put these men in their proper year, and practically complete the Rolls.

The list of soldiers for 1779 as given above contains the names and descriptions of only three men, and thereby hangs a tale:

On Sept. 6, 1779 it was "voted to send a pertision to the General Cort to geet a part of our stait taks abaited."

Feb. 8, 1780, "Voted that the Sessors Should not make a return to Cort of the Assesment."

Mar. 6, 1780, "Voted to make the Rates that was Last made, over again, and leave out the £600 fine."

Sept. 4, 1781, "Voted as a Town to Defend the Assessors for not Makeing the fine in the Last State tax that we ware fined for the three Monthsmen."

A search in the State Archives has brought to light an interesting collection of papers bearing on these and other items in the Town Records:

House Files, Document No. 610.

To the honorable Council & house of Representatives of the state of Massachusetts Bay in General Cort assembly a petition of the select men of Ware in Behalf of s:d town humbly sheweth your honours that the town of Ware was taxt five hondred & thirty six Pounds six Pence which was laid on for Back Reeagies the Last Continatial tax which we humbly Beg you would tak of from this town as thair is about 6000 acrs of Nonreasidant Land which was not in our Power to tax till late the above s:d Land is owned By Gentlemen at a Distant how it is said Refuse to sell which is very disadvantageous to the town which is one Reason with maney others that we are not scarsly able to Pay our tax without aney Back Reeagies But wee hope wee shall be able to Pay our Proportion of taxes. & send a member to Cort that shall Represent the sircumstances of our town much Better then wee Can by Ritting if your honours wold Consider this our petition & grant us our Request & so your hombel petitioners will Ever Pray

ware March 2<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sam <sup>u</sup> l Densmor	} select men for ware
James Lamond	
Alexander Magoon	
Oliver Coney	

(Endorsement) Ord<sup>d</sup> to lie, Mar. 13th, 1780.



House Files, Document No. 638.

To the honnorable Counsel and house of representetives for the state of the massetusets bay in general Coart assembled. the pottision of william Brakenridge for the town of ware humbly Sheweth that theire is a fine of Six hundred pounds added to the last State taxt for want of one man not being raised to go into the Contenental army for nine months upon the orders of June the Nint one thousand Sevon hundred Seventy Nine your petition humbly Sheweth that the man was drafted and returned to the muster master and in the four and twenty hours which Said orders gave him to provide a man or pay a fine in: he went off and has not been heard of Since by me. we have obayed your orders Complet which we ever have done. and your pottitioner prayeth that Said fine may be taken of from Such a poor town as Ware. as your potitioner ever prayeth.

Ware, March ye 6<sup>th</sup> 1780.

Capt  
William Brakenridge “

(Endorsement) This Petition is Conclud<sup>d</sup> To Remain for Better avovcher. Committed to the Committee on similar Pétitions, Mar. 26, 1780.

House Files, Document No. 799.

Commonwelth of the Massachusetts Bay to the Hon-ourable the Sennet and house of Representatives the petition of william Paige in behalf of the Town of ware humbly Sheweth that the Sed town is find for not porcuring our Coto of three months men for the year 1780 — notwithstanding wee porcured Said men for Nine pounds Each Stated or Beaf at twenty foure Shillings a hundred — Ry at foure shillings a Buchel — and have Lost the averidge price threw the Sad State therefore wee trust you in your great wisdom will a Bate the fine and allow us the averidge price — as wee are a people very unable to pay our just portion of taxes much more that which is unjust as we in duty are Bound to Ever pray.

Ware September th 10 day 1781

William Paige } Commetty  
for Ware

(Endorsement) Col. Page  
Brig. Whitney  
M<sup>r</sup> Fiske

withdraw



Papers accompanying Chap. 119, Resolves of 1787.

Commonwelth of massechusetts

To the Honable the Sanet and House of Representative  
In General Court assembled

the petition of Daniel Goold In the behalf of the Town of Ware Humbly Sheweth that the Honable General Court In the year 1779 Did order that the Town of ware Should pay afine of Six Hundred pounds In Continantal monay for Not Sending aman Into the Continantal army. I would Inform your Honours that the Town of ware Have always ben Radey to Comply with Every Requisition of the General Court, and we being under Lowe Surcumstances and Hardly put to it to pay the Taxes which Now Ly against us, we would Inform your Honours that The Town of ware petitioned the General Court for the abetment of Said fine In the year 1781 and the Honourable House of Representitives for the Resons Set fourth In Said petition Did order that the fine Should be abated and the petition was sent up to the Honorable Senate and by Reson of it being miss Laid it Cannot be found — your petitioner therefore prayeth your Honours to take the Case Into your wise Consideration and order that the Treasurer Give Credit to the Town on the Execution that is out against them to the amount of Said fine or Releive Said Town In Sum other way as your Honours In your Grate wisdom Shall See fit.

Boston November 3<sup>d</sup> 1787

Daniel Gould

(Endorsement) Nov. 1787 Refer'd

M<sup>r</sup> Hosmer  
M<sup>r</sup> Smead

Deacon Smith  
M<sup>r</sup> Ingersoll  
D<sup>r</sup> Taylor"

Papers accompanying Chap. 119, Resolves of 1787.

Commonwelth	}	In the House of Representatives Nov <sup>r</sup> y <sup>e</sup> 14, 1787
of		
Massachusetts		

on the Petition of Daniel Gould in behalf of the Town of Ware praying for the Remittance of a fine of Six Hundred pound Continantal Mony, for the Deficiancy of one Man for the Continantal army for the year 1779.

Resolved that the Prayer of the Petitioner be Granted and that the Treauror is hearby Directed to Creadet the

Town of Ware the Sum of Eighteen Pounds five Shilling Specea Agreeable to the Consolidation of the above Said Sum and for which Execution is Issued against the Said Town of Ware."

March 5, 1781, Lieutenant Cummings was sent as delegate to Hatfield. The following year Seth Shaw was sent to the Hadley Convention "to look into the public affairs of the County." In 1783 Lieutenant Cummings was again sent "to attend the convention at Elisha Cook's at Hadley." These and such like meetings fanned the sparks of discontent that flamed up in "Shays' Rebellion," the story of which, on its ecclesiastical side, has already been told. The popularity of that unfortunate uprising was very great in Ware. The home of Joseph Cummings was employed as a depot for insurgent supplies,<sup>1</sup> and many a Ware man marched with the insurgent forces.

In February, 1787, the town voted "that this town do not allow of any property being bought and kept in this town as prizes, except the person bring a receipt that possesses said property from the Commander of the department from whence such property is brought, that they have a right to the same."

Also voted "that this town, as a town, do not allow of any sleighs, horses or persons being stopped on the public roads by any persons." The evident object of these orders was to prevent the seizure of supplies held by, or intended for, the insurgent forces.

James Gilmore is said to have been wounded in the thigh when Shays' men were fired upon near the Springfield Arsenal on Jan. 25, 1787. The pardon of Gilmore for participating in the rebellion, dated April 19, 1787, may be seen in the town library. He was commissioned as Ensign in the militia the 15th of the following April.

The list of grievances over the state of affairs leading to the rebellion is found upon the Town Records, under date of Jan. 15, 1787.

1. The fee table as it now stands.
2. The present appropriation of the impost and excise money.

<sup>1</sup> Recollections of Benjamin Cummings.

3. The unreasonable grants made to some of the officers of government.

4. The supplementary code.

5. The present mode of paying government securities.

6. The present mode of taxation, as it operates unequally betwixt the mercantile and landed interest.

7. The want of a medium of trade to remedy the evil arising from the scarcity of money.

8. The General Court, sitting in the town of Boston.

9. The suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus repealed.

10. The Riot Act repealed.

11. Voted to have the Constitution revised.<sup>1</sup>

12. Voted to have the C. C. Pleas abolished.

Voted to send a petition to the General Court for a redress of grievances, chose a committee of five men to make a draft of a Petition, chose Isaac Pepper, Lieut. Cummings, Mr. Samuel Dunsmore, Capt. Brakenridge, and Mr. William Paige.

After the rebellion was crushed and order restored, an oath of allegiance to the State Government was required of all town officials. This oath is repeated on the records many times, signed by the officers of the town:

I, A. B., do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is and of right ought to be a free, sovereign and independent state; and I do swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the said Commonwealth, and that I will defend the same against traitorous conspiracies, and all hostile attempts whatsoever, and that I do renounce and abjure all allegiance subjection and obedience to the king or government of Great Britain, (as the case may be) and every other foreign prince whatsoever, and that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate, hath, or ought to have, any jurisdiction, superiority, pre-eminence, authority, dispensing, or other power, in any matter, civil ecclesiastical or spiritual within this commonwealth, except the authority and power which is or may be vested by their constituents in the Congress of the United States, and do further testify and declare, that no man or body of men hath or can have any right to absolve or discharge me from the obligation

<sup>1</sup> Ware previously refused to ratify the State Constitution unless with considerable amendment.



of this oath, declaration or affirmation, and that I do make this acknowledgment, profession, testimony, declaration, denial, renunciation and abjuration heartily and truly, according to the common meaning and acceptation of the foregoing words, without any equivocation, mental evasion or secret reservation, whatsoever. So help me God."

On Dec. 26, 1786, town meeting was adjourned from the meeting-house to Nye's tavern, to listen in comfort to the reading of an address from the General Court to the people of Massachusetts. This address, dated Nov. 15, 1786, was of considerable length, and treated of the unfortunate conditions of the times, urging patience upon the citizens, and coöperation with the laws of the land. The address sets forth the financial condition of Massachusetts in great detail, declaring the public debt both necessary and just. The General Court deprecates the recent disorders, and warns the people against their repetition. It declares that further outbreaks can but increase, not lighten, the burden of the State.

The debt of the Commonwealth is stated to be £1,326,448,,18,,2. The national foreign debt £2,365,525,,10,,0. The national domestic debt, due for war expenses, £8,100,000. Massachusetts' proportion of the national debt is:

Foreign £ 353,925,,7,,0.

Domestic 1,162,200,,6,,0.

Twelve hundred copies of the address were ordered to be printed, a copy to be sent to every minister and town clerk. Ministers were directed to read the same on Thanksgiving Day to their respective assemblies immediately after divine service, or to call a special lecture. Clerks were directed to read it at the next town meeting.

At the close of the reading the meeting at Nye's tavern adjourned without comment.

A few miscellaneous items are found in various records:

1757. Voted John Downing to provide a law book.

Evidently it was not done, for in 1758 it was

Voted to raise money to provide a Law Book.

1764. Voted to buy a burying Cloath.



1770. Voted that Dec. Mavreck Smith Shuld provid a cushin and a buring Cloath.

1772. Voted to Raise £2 for Purchising a Chushing and Buring Cloth. Voted that Wm. Breakenridge Should provide the above menched Artecals.

1803. Voted that the Selectmen take care of the Town Plough.

1806. Nathaniel B. Anderson an order for Jinn for the Widow Reed, 34 cts. [The Widow Reed was a town charge.]

1809. Voted that the Town provide powder to blow the rocks on the paraid.

1810. "Joel Mayo, an order for rum delivered Dn. Gould when working on the paraid, and necessaries for J. Buckingham's wife — \$6.42."

1812. "Jonathan Maynard an order for making a coffin for Barritt's child — .75."

1814. "Alpheus Demond, an order for rye, pork and coffin \$22.33."

1824. "An order to Patty Lombard for breaking her leg — \$200.00."

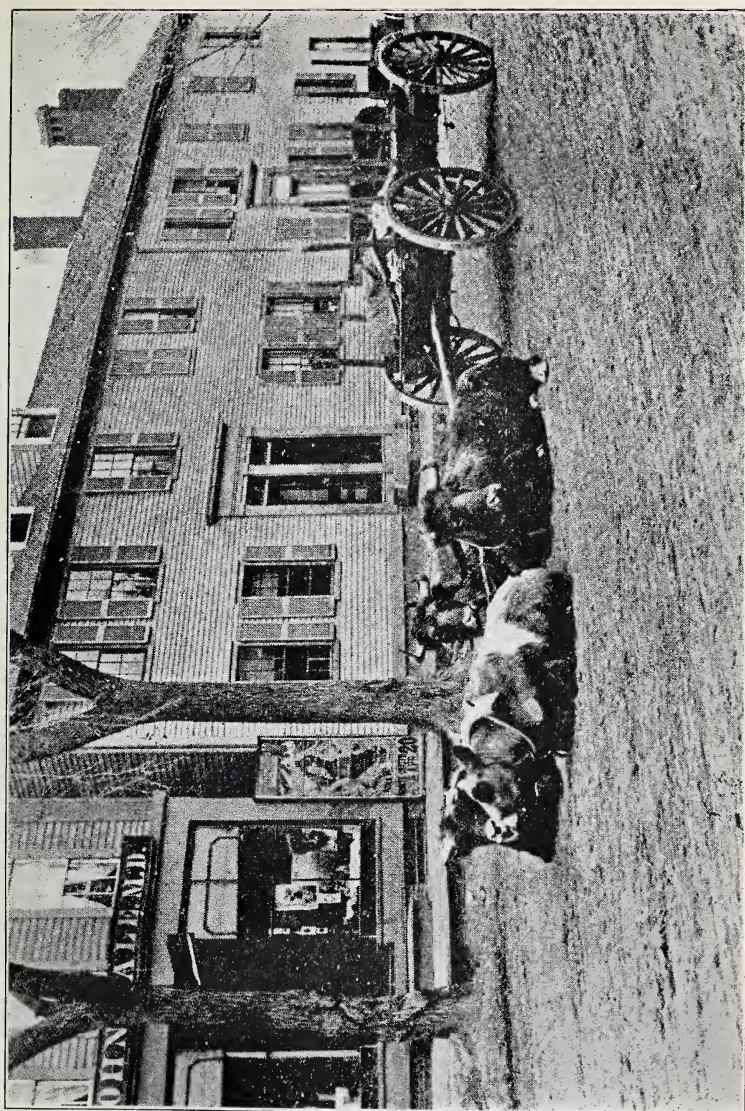
In January, 1825, a committee was appointed to petition the Legislature to change the name of the town to Waterford, — probably after the city of that name in Ireland. At the March meeting the same committee was appointed to select a name, and petition the next Legislature for a change. The project, however, was dropped.

### THE WAR OF 1812

During the years following the Revolution, military matters were not neglected. The militia organizations were active, and parades and trainings were of regular occurrence. There are also frequent orders given by the selectmen for powder and lead, for running bullets and for making cartridges.

Information concerning Ware's part in the War of 1812 has heretofore been meagre, but the discovery of "The Orderly Book of Capt. Ephraim Scott's Company of Infantry, Ware, May, 1811 — Attest James Brakenridge Clerk," gives us, with what has been culled from other sources, a remarkably full history of the military doings of the period.











The first entry of importance in Captain Scott's book is as follows:

"Regimental orders, May 9, 1812 of the 5th regiment now called the 3d and first Brigade and 4th Division of Militia. Agreeable to regimental orders of May 9th there is to be detached from Capt. Ephraim Scott's Company one Sergeant, one Drummer, and five privats. In obedience to the within orders there is detached from this Company Sergeant Isaac Pepper, John T. Gibbs Drummer,

Barnerd Brown	} Privates
Ruben Lazell	
David Gilmore	
Jonathan Harwood	
Russell Lazell	

On July 7 of the same year, another detachment being ordered of six privates, the following were detached:

Thomas Brown	Thomas Sherman	Thomas Howard
Thomas Patrick	Aaron Marsh	Benjamin Davis

It is probable that the military activities of these men were slight, and that they saw no fighting. The fact is that the War was not popular in Massachusetts, and men from this State took little or no part in it during the first two years. The Federal party denounced the War as destructive of our growing commerce, and, falling back on the doctrine of States Rights, Governor Strong refused to call out the militia even at the requisition of President Monroe. When, however, in 1814, the enemy appeared before Boston Harbor, the Governor's policy changed. He called out the State troops, and made ready for the defence of towns and cities on the coast.

Under date of Sept. 11, 1814, we find recorded in Captain Scott's Orderly Book the most important entry of the period:

"Agreeable to Division Brigade and Regimental Orders there was detached from Capt. Scott's Company one Capt. one Sergeant one Drummer and twenty four privates.

## HISTORY OF WARE

Eph<sup>m</sup> Scott Capt.

Allender Brakenridge Sergt.

Phineahas Convass Drummer.

Abel Daman	James Lamberton 2d
Albijence King	Reuben Lazell
Andrew Harwood	Reuben Lamberton
Cyrus Cole	Samuel Gould
Darius Eaton	Samuel Laman Jr
Downing Gould	Thomas Sherman
David Watkins	Thomas Snell
Edward Pope	Warters Allen
Eben Cutter	Samuel Wilson
Joseph Simonds	Foster Marsh
Jonathan Maynerd	Isaac Osburn
John Bears	Benj <sup>n</sup> Lewis

The above Detachment was made September the eleventh A. D. 1814. Attest James Brakenridge Clerk."

The selectmen record several orders of a military character:

Oct. 24, 1814	Simeon Cummings for a cartridge box	\$ 1.00
	Nathan Snell for a gun	11.00
	Calvin Morse, beef for the soldiers	8.16
	James Cargill, baking for the soldiers	2.65
	James Cargill for carrying the baggage	18.00
	Joseph Cummings for onions and baking bread for the soldiers	2.50
Nov. 7, 1814	John Osborn, making cartridges	2.10
Jan. 2, 1815	James Brakenridge, beef for the soldiers	5.50
Feb. 15, 1815	Eli Snow, for goods for soldiers	2.19

At the March meeting, 1815, it was "Voted that \$4.00 per man be given the Militia that were detached and did serve in defense of the state from this town last fall." The payments recorded under this order dribbled along up into 1817.

Hostilities ceased soon after the beginning of 1815, but payments for military supplies continue for a number of years. Aug. 28, 1815, Benjamin Paige receives \$20 for powder, and in September Thomas Snell for mending a gun \$1. There are also frequent orders for making cartridges.

A review of the Company was ordered for May 2, 1815, "with arms and equipment," with the following abstract of the return:

Captains	1	Se. & belts	71
Lieut.	1	Flints	146
Ensign	1	Wire & brushes	64
Serjeants	4	Cartridges & balls	1326
Drums & fifes	7	Knapsacks	78
Rank & file	99	Rifles	8
Muskets	72	Balls	188
Bayonets	71	Pounds of Powder	51½
Cartridge Boxes	66	Pounds of lead	71½
Iron rods	72		

Captain Scott's command lasted until Aug. 18, 1815, at which time he received his discharge, Lieut. Benjamin Paige being elected to succeed him as captain of the militia.

The story is related that Allender Brakenridge was once asked the date of Captain Scott's commission with a view of fixing his seniority. Brakenridge replied "that he was unable to say, but he had heard that Captain Scott was Orderly Sergeant under Pontius Pilate."

Captain Scott was a prominent figure in the town for a long period of years. His commanding officer in the War of 1812 was Lieut.-Col. Enos Foote, and his term of actual service was from Sept. 13 to Nov. 1, 1814.

Revolutionary soldiers whose graves have been marked by S. A. R. markers at Ware Centre:

*In the Church Yard*

Eli Ayres		d. Feb. 20, 1840	ae. 82
Judah Marsh	Private	" May 9, 1801	" 89
Andrew Harwood	"	" Feb. 23, 1823	" 80
Wm. Breckenridge	Capt.	" Feb. 16, 1807	" 84

*In the Cemetery on the Hill*

Jonathan Foster	Private	d. Nov. 24, 1805	
Phille Morse	Drum.	" Mar. 20, 1825	ae. 80
Thomas Andrews	Sergt.	" June 13, 1815	" 87

John Andrews		d. Apr. 24, 1823	ae. 61
John Gardner		" Oct. 27, 1828	" 61
Joseph Gray		" Feb. 15, 1821	" 89
Sam. Sherman		" Jan. 29, 1811	" 88
Jos. Cummings	Lieut.	" June 29, 1826	" 73
James Lamberton		" Jan. 12, 1841	" 79
Jonathan Marsh	Private	" Apr. 16, 1838	" 86
Abraham Cummings	1 Lt.	no monument	
Jacob Lazell	Private	" Apr. 10, 1828	" 73
Oliver Coney	Captain	" Dec. 13, 1830	" 81



John A. [unclear]	d.	Nov.	24, 1888	63
John [unclear]		Dec.	27, 1878	61
John [unclear]		Feb.	25, 1871	59
John [unclear]		Jan.	28, 1877	58
John [unclear]	Alone	Jan.	29, 1880	75
John [unclear]		Jan.	12, 1847	70
John [unclear]	Private	Aug.	16, 1886	66
George [unclear]	I. L.	not registered		
John [unclear]	Private	Apr.	20, 1882	72
John [unclear]	Centurion	Dec.	28, 1887	67

**"THE NARROWS" IN GRENVILLE PARK**

*Here the Hadley Path crossed the Ware River*

**THE LAMBERTON HOUSE**

*Built before 1800 near the point where the Boston Post Road crossed Ware River. The house stands some three hundred yards above the old ford-way.*





## VIII

### ROADS AND BRIDGES

NOTHING is more important in the development of a town than its system of roads. To trace the growth of the road system, unless contemporaneous maps are available, is a most intricate process for several reasons. In the first place it must be borne in mind that roads existed long before they were in any sense formal highways. Paths through the woods made by the Indians, and runs traversed in the earliest times by deer and other wild animals were adopted by the settlers as bridle-paths, to be gradually developed into wood-roads and cart-tracks. We read of "Natural roads" along the streams or over the hills that later were improved and laid out as highways. In the second place, formally accepted highways were by no means permanent. The old records abound in discontinuations and changes of location, as well as in the acceptance of others newly surveyed. Carelessness in nomenclature, and reckoning from transitory landmarks further complicate the subject. Probably the earliest road through this territory ran approximately east and west, and was used as a thoroughfare long before an acre of town land was owned by a private individual.

Historians are pretty well agreed that there were two main routes of travel east and west through the Province of Massachusetts, both following the route of ancient Indian trails. These were the Hadley Path and the Bay Path. One who is familiar with the literature on the subject<sup>1</sup> describes these paths as follows:

The Bay Path, so called from its destination on the coast, and since celebrated in song and story, was perhaps the most famous of these narrow threads of communication between the river and the ocean. We learn that it was laid out in 1673, following substantially a great trail of the savages from Boston or Shawmut as they called it and



passing through Watertown, Wayland and Marlborough to Worcester. Thence it led to Brookfield, following the Quabaug River and the present line of the Boston & Albany R. R. to the vicinity of Indian Orchard, when it bore away from the Chicopee River and entered Springfield by what is still called the "Old Bay Road" and Bay and State streets, passing near, and perhaps partly over, the ground now occupied by the United States Armory and Arsenal. "The streams were crossed at natural ford-ways, a large tree was thrown across for foot travel, and later two trees laid side by side and covered with split timbers formed a bridge for saddle and pack horses." At West Brookfield it diverged from Pyncheon's Path to Springfield, which passed through Brimfield near Steerage Rock, and also from what was known as the Hadley Path marked out soon after 1660. The latter antedates the Bay Path by about a dozen years, and "ran from Old Hadley to Quabaug connecting the two settlements socially and commercially. It was the military road during King Philip's War and continued the main line of travel between the two points for nearly a century. It started from the plain on which West Brookfield Village now stands, ran by the southwesterly corner of Wekabaug Pond, thence in a northwesterly direction to near the northeast corner of Warren, thence directly over the top of Coy's Hill, where was the famous Rich's Tavern, crossed the Ware River a short distance above the falls, where the Otis Company's dam now stands, thence through Ware Town Valley to the Swift River, Belchertown, Hadley and Northampton." Traces of this road are still visible on the lower side of the Gilbertville road near the junction with the Warren road, showing where it ran to the river. I find mention of one other through path, the exact location of which I am unable to give. It was a continuation of what was known as the Nashaway trail leading from Lancaster to the Great Falls of the Connecticut River as the site of the city of Holyoke was then called. It kept on the easterly side of Ware River by way of the Indian villages previously spoken of to Pottaquattuck Pond (now known as Forest Lake), where it crossed the river at the well-known ford-way, thence following a westerly course through Bondsville, Ludlow and Chicopee.

The earliest settlers followed largely the Indian trails, and the Hadley Path described above became an import-

ant road, in fact the most important road in the economy of our town, passing directly through Ware from east to west. It may still be traced through nearly its whole length. Starting westward from the lower end of Wekabaug Pond it passed southerly of the present highway through the fields and up the slope of Coy's Hill in almost a straight line. The stone walls bordering it when a highway are still in place for a long distance at the top of the hill. On the west side it descended past the old Coney place, turning somewhat to follow the valley of a small brook where the Warren road leads down towards Ware River, then to the Narrows and across into Grenville Park, whence its route may be traced through the grove straight toward Highland Street, a portion of which is built on the old road-bed; there crossing Muddy Brook at about the middle of Snow's Pond<sup>1</sup> it may be picked up again on the west side, and still again at the foot of the steep hill that leads up past the cellar-hole of the pest-house, whence it ran through the Centre past the meeting-house, and on to Swift River Bridge. It was early known as "the great road," and was laid out ten rods wide.<sup>2</sup> The stone walls below the pest-house show the original width of the road as well as its location. West of the Centre in the Beaver Brook Valley the road probably forked, the lower route leading to Swift River Bridge, while the northern crossed Beaver Lake above the modern dam but below the ancient one, and led north-westerly. The abutments of a forgotten bridge over Swift River may be seen close to the Ware and Enfield town line. Either here, or a mile below, at West Ware, this upper road crossed Swift River.

The plat of Mr. Samuel Prince's farm (the Hollingsworth grant) made in 1714 shows a bit of the Hadley Road as it led through what is now the village. The bridge at the Narrows was built undoubtedly before the town was settled. Remains of old abutments may still be seen at low water. Here undoubtedly Jabez Omstead crossed the river coming from Brookfield in 1729. An ancient cellar-hole recently filled

<sup>1</sup> The abutments of the bridge were observed where the old road crossed Muddy Brook, when the water was last out of the pond.

<sup>2</sup> So stated in the survey of Jeremiah Omstead's original grant of 1733. The road ran through his land 254 rods, and 10 rods wide. His grant of 100 acres was exclusive of road and river.

up, traditionally attributed to Jabez, though it more probably belonged to his son Jeremiah, was near the west end of the bridge.

That changes were made very early is shown by a deed of Jeremiah Omstead of 1738<sup>1</sup> in which is mentioned an "Old Bridge Spot" and a "New Bridge," the two being some distance apart. The facts are not easy to determine, for the old County Records do not always, in referring to bridges, describe them unmistakably. Several references were found to a bridge near the house of one Richard Burk, which could not quite be reconciled with each other. Reference to the court and probate records showed that there were at least two, and perhaps three men of that name living in this vicinity about 1740. One died in Ware River Parish in 1756. Four years earlier he was in court for obstructing the highway with a fence. He appears to have been a lessee on the Manour, as no record is found of his having owned land. He almost certainly lived in the south part of the town at the point where the road to Palmer crosses the river. It is said that a very old house stood near the fork of the roads sixty years ago.

Another Richard Burk was living in Brookfield in 1740, and his son, Richard, Jr., was at the same time residing in Quabbin or Greenwich. In 1734 Richard Burk, Jr., quit-claims land in Ware River supposed to be 100 acres, 20 acres of it being described as "that on which I now dwell." Richard Burk of Brookfield appears to have lived just east of Ware River on land annexed to Ware in 1755.

There can be no doubt that the following order of the Court of Sessions of the County, dated 1733, has reference to the bridge at the Narrows:

This Court orders that a good Substantial Cart Bridge be built over Ware River in the Road from Hadley to Brookfield across s<sup>d</sup> River a little below the house of Richard Burk — and Elea<sup>r</sup> Porter and Timothy Dwight Esq. are desired & directed to take care to have s<sup>d</sup> Bridge erected over s<sup>d</sup> River and that they Improve some faithful workman to effect y<sup>e</sup> same, and the s<sup>d</sup> Bridge to be built at the charge of the County of Hampshire.

<sup>1</sup> Springfield Registry.



Another court record of 1736, describing the road between Hadley and Brookfield, mentions several unmistakable landmarks:

. . . Turning Northeast where the s<sup>d</sup> New Rode is marked up to Jabez umsteed House and along where the Road now goes up to the Great Bridge over Ware River towards Richard Burks House a little south of it and so up Coy's hill in the New Cart Road to Brookfield West Line.

The bridge at the Narrows was "the Great Bridge," and the Hadley Path has reached the dignity of a "New Cart Road to Brookfield."

Naturally this bridge went the way of all perishable things, and in less than twenty years another order of the same court became necessary.

Court of Sessions, 1751.

The Court being informed that y<sup>e</sup> bridge at Ware River in the Country road was fallen down, and there was an absolute necessity for a new one, ordered that there be a new Bridge built as soon as may be, that there be a box fitted in the middle of the river and string pieces from y<sup>e</sup> abutments to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Box, and that there be paid out of y<sup>e</sup> County Treasury six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence lawful money toward it, and Coll<sup>o</sup> Porter is desired and directed to see it done as soon as may be.

Again in 1763 we find this record:

On account of the charges of building Ware River Bridge being presented to the Court amounting to £51,, 18,,8, the same was allowed and payment ordered to be made to Eleazer Porter Esq. to be received by him and paid to the persons employed.

The bridge of 1757, paid for as above, apparently did not stand as it should, for in 1765 the inhabitants of Ware petition:

That ye bridge over Ware River in ye county afores<sup>d</sup> & in s<sup>d</sup> Ware now is & long has been down & out of repair and that by reason of poverty and the great charge they are necessarily at in making & repairing the public roads in y<sup>e</sup>



s<sup>d</sup> Ware (considerable part of wh is newly laid out & puts y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> inhabitants to great charge and costs to make feasible) and are utterly unable to repair y<sup>e</sup> bridge aforesaid without y<sup>e</sup> aid & assistance of this county they therefore pray such relief may be given them in y<sup>e</sup> premises as this court shall think reasonable — and as in duty etc.

Court ordered £20 to be granted as aid “to encourage inhab<sup>s</sup> of Ware to build a bridge over s<sup>d</sup> river in y<sup>e</sup> old Country R<sup>d</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> place where y<sup>e</sup> former Bridge stood.”

Of the Hadley Road as a whole, through the centre of the town, the following record, dated 1763, is of interest as picturing times and conditions:

The Grand Jurors for the Lord the King for the body of the County of Hampshire do on their oaths Present that the Common High Way of the said Lord the King leading from Swift River Bridge so called in the District of Ware in said County to the East Line of the said District of Ware being the Space of Six miles and the whole breadth thereof being the space of Six rods <sup>1</sup> on the first day of August last past was, ever since has been and now is out of Repair and foundrous miry and Rocky for Want of a due reparation and amendment thereof so that the liege Subjects of the said Lord the King cannot pass on the same Way without great Danger and Difficulty. And said Jurors on their Oaths further say that the Inhabitants of the sd District of Ware by a Law of this province in such Cases provided ought and are holden to repair the said High Way so often as the same stands in need of Repair, but neglect and refuse to repair the same Contrary to a Law of this province in such Cases made and provided the Peace of ye sd Lord the King and to the Common Nuisance of all his Majesty's liege subjects passing thro' ye sd Way — Which Presentment was made at the last Term of this Court and signed John Hawks foreman —

And now the said Inhabitants upon summons of them by a Deputy Sheriff for this purpose by Jacob Cummings Gent. their Agent come before sd Court and being put to plead and answer to the premises They here freely declare that they will not Contend with the King but submit themselves to his Grace —

It is therefore Considered by the Court that the sd In-

<sup>1</sup> Width given as ten rods in the Proprietors' Records.









habitants of Ware aforesd for their Offense aforesd do pay a fine of Twenty Shill<sup>s</sup> to be to his Majesty and Cost of Prosecution taxed at two pounds eleven Shillings & Ex<sup>e</sup>on is awarded accordingly — It is also further Considered that a Distraign go against the said Inhabitants until the same High Way be effectually repaired —

{ Ex<sup>n</sup> for ye fine &  
{ Cost iss'd 4th oct. 1763

As the Hadley Road crossed Muddy Brook running westerly it undoubtedly branched, one fork turning south and following the direction of the brook a little way up the hill. It crossed West Main Street a few rods beyond the bridge, and entered Palmer Road a short distance this side of the old "cemetery on the plain."

On the high land just back of the first house beyond the bridge on West Street is an old cellar-hole which tradition declares to have belonged to the first tavern in Ware, kept by John Downing, and licensed first in the year 1754. The course of the old road may still be readily traced in the neighborhood of the cellar-hole. From this point it apparently followed Palmer Road to Gibbs' Crossing, then turned more westerly, past the Babcock Tavern (which is modern, though an earlier inn stood on higher ground nearly a mile to the westward in 1763), and so on over Swift River Bridge.

This bridge over Swift River was in place when the Read Manour was first surveyed. In 1728 the Court of Common Pleas at Springfield allowed £10.,<sup>13</sup> to Thomas Baker of Brookfield for time and expenses in building or mending this bridge.

The main artery of the Bay Path passed through the southerly portion of Palmer, following the Quabog River, which it crossed twice, once on entering the Elbow Tract, and again on leaving it. A more northerly branch left the main artery near West Warren, crossed the southern slopes of Coy's Hill, and led through the south-westerly portion of Ware to the bridge over Swift River, a mile and a half or two miles above the southern boundary of the town. Thus it may be seen that the Bay Road and the Hadley Road crossed Swift River at the same point, to diverge again on

the western bank, the one toward Springfield, the other toward Hadley.

The Country Records at Northampton refer to this road, as it approaches Swift River, as the Bay Road, — with a question mark. It is also called, on the map of 1795, the Post Road to Boston, and is otherwise named the County Road, and the Country Road. How early this route was travelled cannot easily be determined. It followed the ancient Indian trail, employing the ford-way for crossing the river. As early as 1733 William Scott was keeping a tavern near this spot, described in a petition for a license renewal as “especially convenient for assistance for crossing the river at difficult seasons.”

In 1751 the Court ordered “that Coll<sup>o</sup> Dwight and Coll<sup>o</sup> Williams be a committee to build a bridge over Swift River as soon as may be at the charge of the County, and that y<sup>e</sup> Committee be directed to examine whether a shorter road may not be obtained for the use of travellers without purchase of land.”

In 1753 we find the following order of the Court of Sessions:

Ordered by y<sup>e</sup> Court that there be paid to y<sup>e</sup> committee toward building a bridge at Ware River near Scott’s £26,, 13,, 2, lawful money.

Joseph Scott, in 1752, acquired the lease of 200 acres lying on both sides of the river just above where it crosses the Palmer line.

The abutments of an old bridge may still be seen below the most westerly of the Lamberton houses, now owned by George F. Brown. Some three hundred yards down the river is an ancient ford-way, and a second ford-way below that.

The time had come for a less difficult route through Ware than the Hadley Road over the top of Coy’s Hill. Such a route was surveyed for the County by Nathaniel Dwight in 1769. It is described as leading “from the line of the County a little east of Isaac Merritt’s across the south of Coy’s Hill to the County Road in Ware a little south-west of Rice’s house.”

The Commissioners "met June 28, 1769, at the house of Mr. Jonathan Rogers, Inn-holder in Ware, and measured the way proposed from Robert Brown's field round by Jonathan Roger's to Rice's, and to the point of the hill south-west of said Rice's where we proposed to come to the Road, and from there up to Brown's field, across the bow of Ware River, and found the way by Roger's 165 rods furthest, and were fully satisfied that across the bow of the river was the best way, not only shortest but most even feasible ground." Then we went to Western Line which is y<sup>e</sup> East line of y<sup>e</sup> County.

The specifications follow in detail.

Then "we crossed the river West 12° North, 54 poles to the Old Road . . . where the road turns round the South point of the hill beyond Richard Burke's old possession where we ended the road we were to lay out."

The problem for the Commissioners was not as difficult as it has proved for their interpreter. What they did was this: They started at a point about three quarters of a mile north-west of Shaw's Tavern, as it is now called, and measured the old road (now discontinued) which led down past the Newland farm and across the river at or near the two-mile bridge, then westerly past Rogers's Inn about as the road now runs, continuing on to the bow of the river.

Then crossing the river at the bow they went straight through the meadow, along the line of Bacon Street and so up the hill to their starting point at Brown's field.

This latter route was found to be better, and more than half a mile shorter than the first route measured. Then they continued up the hill past McMaster's house, which was afterwards built over into the Shaw Tavern now standing. Then past Merritt's <sup>1</sup>spring, which has kept its name to this day (it lies a few rods away from the road as it now runs), and so to Western line, the line of the county.

The route thus laid out was not a new one, but it now becomes a county road, Nathaniel Dwight's survey being accepted by the county. Two years later the bridge ques-

<sup>1</sup> An interesting tradition has survived in regard to Merritt's house which stood near the spring. One night, a hundred years ago or more, the entire family of ten or twelve were asleep in their beds, when a great wind blew the roof from the house and carried it two miles away to Coy's Hill, without hurting a single occupant of the house.



tion at the bow of the river was up, in regard to which we find an interesting act of the General Court of 1771.

An act for charging the County of Hampshire with cost of erecting & maintaining a bridge over Ware River in the district of Ware in s<sup>d</sup> County of Hampshire lately laid out, leading from the Great road in s<sup>d</sup> Ware, called the Bay Road, to the Great road in Western — called the Post Road from Springfield to Boston:

This road laid out by order of the Court of Sessions for Hampshire County . . . whereby the steep, long and very difficult hill, called Coy's Hill, in the said great road, called the Bay Road<sup>1</sup> is avoided, which will very much facilitate the travelling from Hadley to Boston especially with carriages. But as that part of the s<sup>d</sup> road lately laid out . . . crosses Ware River . . . which cannot be forded in many seasons of the year and therefore a bridge over the s<sup>d</sup> river in that part thereof is absolutely necessary . . . and as the inhabitants of the s<sup>d</sup> district of Ware by reason of their extreme and well known poverty, are altogether unable either to erect or maintain such a bridge . . . Therefore . . . the erecting and maintaining and upholding of a cart-bridge over Ware River in the road lately laid out in the District of Ware Afors<sup>d</sup> shall be and hereby is made a proper county charge of the s<sup>d</sup> County of Hampshire.

In 1772 a humble petition was presented asking for further help from the county, as alterations must be made in the approaches to the bridge on account of changes in the highway. "Given into the hands of the Commission appointed at a former term *to erect the bridge abovementioned.*"

Report recommends that £103,0,,5 be allowed. This was ordered, — County Treasurer to pay the Committee.

The Bay Road, or Boston Post Road, followed this route for many years. Floods frequently destroyed the bridge, and new ones were built. A tradition states that seventy-five or eighty years ago the bridge was taken up in the fall and put down again in the spring.

When the bridge just above the village passed out of use we cannot say. The Omsteads built, for their own conven-

<sup>1</sup> The fact is there has always been confusion in referring to the Bay Road and to the Hadley Road. It depended somewhat on the point of view whether one faced eastward toward the Bay, or westward toward Hadley.



ience, a bridge below their mills, near where the South Street bridge now stands. This would somewhat lessen the need for the one at the old spot above the falls, and very likely it soon fell into decay. The map of 1795 shows a bridge about half way between the villages of Ware and Gilbertville, at or near the spot where the iron bridge now stands.

The origin of this bridge is found in the Town Records. In 1793 there was an article in the warrant "to see if the town will make any Incouragement towards building a Bridge over Ware River, so called, near Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Snell's." A committee was chosen to report at an adjourned meeting, after having consulted with the inhabitants of New Braintree, and at the adjourned meeting the town voted £20 toward the construction of the bridge. In the next year, 1794, a road was laid out "from New Braintree line South westerly to the road called the Hawley (Hadley) road, otherwise described as extending from the Bullen farm to New Braintree line." This is now the continuation of Church Street beyond the reservoir.

References to other roads, either laid out or repaired, are frequent. Let it be remembered, however, that in many instances they had been travelled for years before being recorded. The following are County Roads:

1753 — From Swift River Bridge to Palmer.

1761 — Highway through Ware River to Greenwich. This ran through the Beaver Brook Valley. The "Turnpike" was not projected until many years later. On Feb. 20, 1806, the town "voted to lay out \$200 for the purpose of carrying the Monson and Petersham Turnpike through this town." The money was to be expended under the direction of an agent of the town, and when completed the road was to be given to "the corporation of said Turnpike road provided they go on and complete the whole road as located by the committee."

1761 — From Hardwick to Palmer.

1763 — From the Bay Road at the top of Swift River Hill, northeasterly to the County line, four rods wide.

It "intersects the road from Palmer to Greenwich, and runs in s<sup>d</sup> road 132 rds . . . crossing Beaver Brook near where

a saw-mill formerly stood to a white oak tree near the Meeting House . . . past Capt. Cumming's house . . . crossing the County Road from Palmer to Hardwick . . . to Muddy Brook . . . past Andrew Rutherford's . . . to Ware River, crossing s<sup>d</sup> river . . . to the east side of the County."

This is of interest. It seems to imply that the mill-pond that figured so largely in the Manour had been allowed to drain off, and that the mill had wholly disappeared. The old dam was several rods north of the modern dam destroyed in 1907.

1795 — Commonwealth of Mass. vs Inhabitants of Town of Ware. For suffering the Bridge on the post-road in s<sup>d</sup> town of Ware over the South East parte of Swift River to be dangerous to pass and to be out of repair.

At the Supreme Judicial Court held at Northampton, a true bill was found against the Town of Ware.

The bridge being repaired, I will prosecute on this bill no further.

James Sullivan  
Attorney General.

Town charged with costs amounting to \$5.55.

1826 — From Ware Factory north-westerly to Enfield.

Many alterations in the county roads are recorded, but are not of sufficient interest to be given here.

The old road from the Centre to Magoon's Mills is that one, now discontinued, leading from Doane's to West Main Street, just west of Muddy Brook Bridge. This is shown on the map of 1795. A more southerly road from the Centre led a little way down the brook in front of the meeting-house, then crossed the brook (the old abutments now support a farm bridge), and ran up the hill past McManus' house. The stone walls bounding the road are still in place. From the top of the hill the road appears to have borne northerly until it joined the road from Doane's. The present travelled road from the Centre to the Village, long known as the new road, was built not far from seventy five years ago.

A large part of the old Warren road has been rebuilt by Mr. E. H. Gilbert as a pleasure drive. The remainder, crossing the hill, may be readily followed.

Besides the roads laid out and maintained by the county, the town was continually extending its highway system.

1753 — Voted and allowed a Rode from Hardwick line, as it now goes, thru Ebenezer Spooner's Land, with gate to the Mills colled Judah Marsh's.

Voted and allowed a rode from Jacob Cumming's to the Cap. Omstead's mills,<sup>1</sup> and so to the meeting house.

Voted and allowed a rode from Samuel Davies' to the mills colled Cap. Omstead's.

1762 — Voted to Except the Highway from the Meten Hous to the Line of this District above Samuel Blackemors.

The Blackmore farms were in the south-east corner of the town.

Voted to Except of the High Way from the meten hous to Mr. Thayer's, and from there to the old mil on[e] bever brook, from there to the County road.

This is the road running west from Ware Centre past the foot of Brimstone Hill, at which spot Rev. Mr. Thayer's farm was situated.

Voted to Except of the Highway from the Meten Hous Southerly by marked trees to Daved Pulsefuss'.

Voted to Except the Highway from the Meten Hous to Hardwick Lane, beginning at Benjmen Ramon's [Damon's].

This road was on the east side of Flat Brook, crossing the brook about a mile above the meeting-house.

Voted to Except the Highway from James McMichel's Easterly to the Rod from Breckenridge's to the meting hous, which is to be a bridl Rod, with Gats and bars, at present.

1763 — Voted to Imploy Cap. Dwight a surver [surveyor] to prambelat the Lin with Grenwich.

Voted to allow a highway from Ebenezar Gilbard's to the County road.

This was on the east side of Ware River.

Voted to Except the roode from Nahum Davis' to ye Bridg at Magun's.

<sup>1</sup> The Omstead mills were later the Magoon mills.



Voted to have a highway laid out from Ben Cumming's by Isaac Magoon's to Palmer.

The road west of Flat Brook. This was accepted in the following year and described as "the highway from Palmer by Isael Magon to the meten hous as it is laid."

1764 — Voted to Except of the highway from Joseph Paterson's to the Meten house.

1765 — Voted to Except of the road from Doc. Damon's to the mill; also from Doc. Damon's to the Meten hous; also from Jeremiah Andrson's to James McMichel's meting road.

It is impossible to state when the first bridge was built across the river below the Omstead-Magoon mills where the South Street Bridge now stands. It was probably built by the Omsteads at the time the mills were constructed, for their own convenience. The earliest unquestionable reference to it is in a deed of Jabez Omstead to his son Israel in 1743.

In 1768 it was voted to raise £40 in labor to build a bridge over the river at the mills, and a committee was appointed to take charge of the work. £2 was voted "to provid Rumb for the raiesing the bridge." Sometime in the winter the work was completed, and in the following March accounts were allowed for "Bred met and Sider at the Brdg."

In 1778 an article was placed in the warrant "to see what way the town will Com in to Conserving repairing the Bridge by Magoon's mill, as we look upon it Dangris to have it lie so any longer." It was voted to repair the bridge at town cost. Again in 1783 it was voted to rebuild the bridge where it formerly stood, at a cost of £70.

1769 — "Excepted the Highway from Mr. Jinkens to the meteing hows: Beginning at Mr. Thoms Jenken's hows, from there up the Valey . . . thence in the road to Greenwich . . . thenc Westely across the plain to the popler Bridg." Also the highway from "Benjemen Cumming's hows . . . Northerly . . . to the line between Alexander Magon and Phineahes Hupom . . . to the New Bridg."



# THE SOUTH STREET BRIDGE

This bridge replaced the old covered wooden bridge built in 1812, in 1854. The bridge was built in 1854. The bridge is now in 1854. The bridge is now in 1854. The bridge is now in 1854.

Went to leave a Highway (1841) and from Ben Cummings's to Isaac Huggins's to Palace.

The road west of Pine Brook. This was recorded in the following year and described as "the Highway from Palace to Isaac Huggins to the same house as it is laid."

1842 - Voted to Except of the Highway from Joseph Palmer's to the Miller house.

1843 - Voted to Except of the road from Pine Brook to the north side from Pine Brook to the Miller house, also from Jeremiah Anderson's to Isaac McDaniel's meeting house.

It is impossible to state when the first bridge was built across the river below the Oxbow-Mason mills where the South Street Bridge now stands. It was probably built in the Oxbow at the time the mills were constructed, for their own convenience. The earliest unquestionable reference to it is in the records of the town in the year 1742.

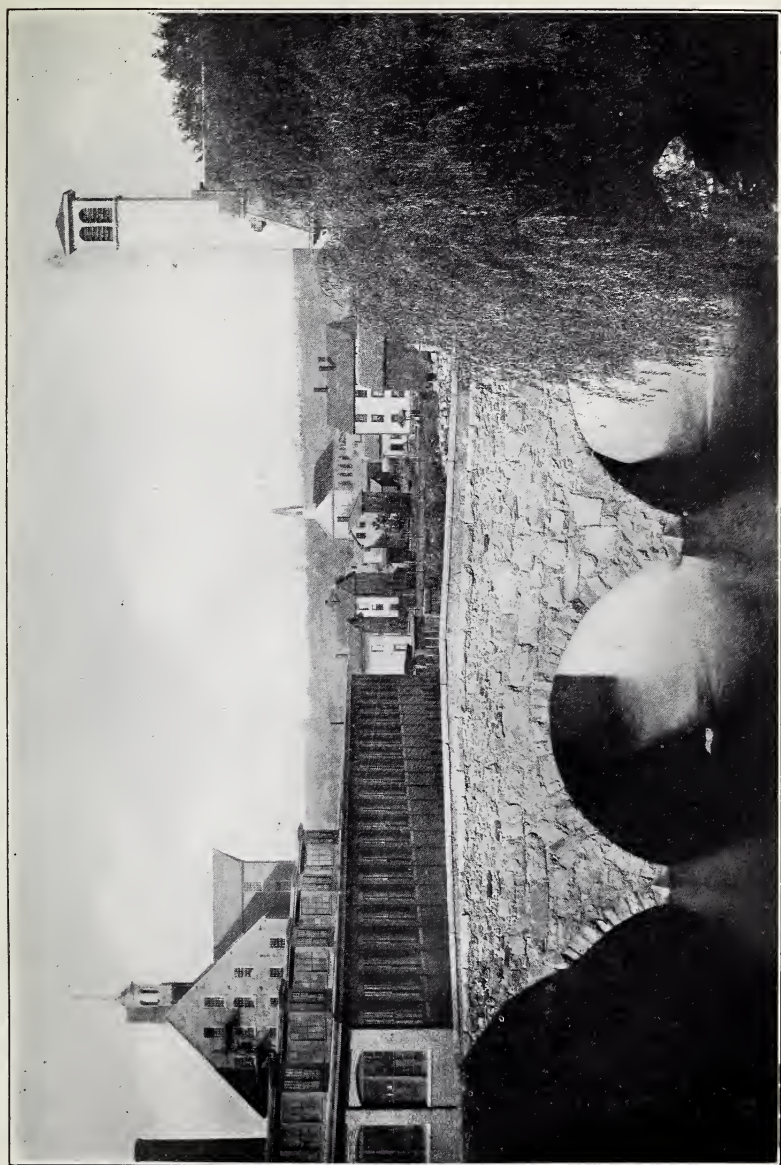
### THE SOUTH STREET BRIDGE

*This bridge replaced the old covered wooden bridge built, in spite of universal protest, in 1844-5. In the distance is seen St. William's Church, standing on Prospect Hill.*

In 1742 a petition was presented to the town meeting by the citizens of the town of Wade, to have a bridge built over the river at the place where the old bridge was standing. The petition was read and the meeting voted "to proceed with the building the bridge." Something in the winter the work was completed, and in the following March accounts were allowed for "Fuel put and Sails at the Bridge."

In 1743 a petition was presented to the town meeting "to have the bridge over the river at the place where the old bridge was standing, to be built by the town of Wade, as the bridge was in danger of falling down." It was voted to repair the bridge as soon as possible. Again in 1743 it was voted to rebuild the bridge where it formerly stood, at a cost of 270.

1744 - "Resolved the Highway from Mr. Palmer to the meeting house, beginning at Mr. Thomas Jackson's house, from there up the Valley . . . thence on the road to Greenwich . . . thence Westward across the river to the paper bridge." Also the Highway from "Benjamin Cummings's house . . . Northward . . . to the line between Alexander Mason and Philadelphus Hapets . . . to the New Bridge."







This road is readily identified as South Street.

A full account of road changes and developments would fill a sizable volume. Many were accepted by the town which were of little or no permanent value and could hardly be identified today, the landmarks by which they were described having disappeared. Changes were made from year to year to meet the needs. It is interesting to note that as in ancient days "all roads led to Rome," so in our early years they led to the meeting-house, with only an occasional variation to some mill. Bread must be had; but Bread of Heaven came first.

A few of the more important developments in the nineteenth century may be briefly noted.

1807 — Evidently a year of heavy floods. Voted in March to rebuild the bridge below Magoon's. Also a committee appointed to confer with Belchertown concerning a bridge over Swift River.

Voted to choose a committee to look up and convey back what timber can be found which was carried away by the flood from the bridge near Seth Lamberton's.

Also voted to repair the bridge near John Andrews's.

1811 — A bridge over Ware River near Aaron Andrews's ordered rebuilt. These two items refer to the bridge about half way between Ware and Gilbertville. The old Andrews farm was just west of the bridge. The "Red Bridge," recently replaced by an iron one, is well remembered. William Snell, who owned the land when the first bridge was built, sold to John Andrews in 1796.

1815 — Voted to repair one half of the bridge and one abutment over Swift River near John Tisdale's. This is the bridge at West Ware. A new bridge was built here in 1834.

1818 — Voted to rebuild the two bridges over Ware River where they have been swept away by the flood.

1824 — Pleasant Street and Church Street laid out, each 50 feet wide.

1834 — The town was divided into 19 Highway Districts.

"Chose a committee to superintend the construction of a Bridge over Swift River near Lewis' Mills."

1836 — A road was laid out from "Calvin Moses across the river near the north end of the new cotton factory . . . near the furnace." \$330 was appropriated for the construction of road and bridge. This is the upper bridge in the village, and was for many years known as the Furnace Bridge. This first bridge was of wood. It was replaced by a stone bridge in 1851. The latter was badly damaged in the flood of October, 1869, which wrecked the old stone grist-mill, after which the present bridge was constructed.

In 1844 a committee was appointed by the town to rebuild the bridge "near Gilbert and Stevens' factory." It was to be of wood, and it was optional with the committee whether it should be covered or not. A petition, preserved at the library, that the bridge be not covered, was ineffectual. This bridge was paid for in 1845 from the "Surplus Revenue."

In 1844 a change of far-reaching importance was made in the heart of the village. Among the assets of the Hampshire Manufacturing Company, which failed in 1837, was the large tract of land known as the Common, lying between Main and Water Streets, extending east to the street adjoining the Otis Company's office, and west to Palmer Road. The intention of the Hampshire Company to preserve this large open space was frustrated by their neglect to transfer the tract in question to the town or to suitable trustees. There was nothing, therefore, for the receivers of the Company to do but to sell the land. Thus in 1844 it was divided into thirty-four building lots, all of which were sold with the exception of a portion of the east end of the tract which, left open, developed into Nenameseck Square. It may be noted that Main Street was then called Front Street, West Main was the Town Road, North Street was called West Street, West Street was the County Road, Water Street was Common Street.

The survey of the plot was made by S. J. Wethrill.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Northampton Registry, Vol. 105, p. 545.





THE MAP OF THE ...



## IX

### LATER RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES

#### THE EAST PARISH

WITH the development of the water-power a great change had come over the population of the town. Ware Factory Village, as it was called, had sprung up almost in a night, creating the need of another parish and place of worship.

On March 8, 1825, the first meeting of the East Society was held in the schoolhouse, at which time a clerk and treasurer were chosen, and a committee appointed to supply the society "with some suitable person or persons as a preacher for the year ensuing, and to regulate the said East Society in all other respects as according to law."

At an adjourned meeting held on the first Tuesday in April following, a committee was appointed "to report what sum ought to be raised to defray the expenses of said society the current year." The committee reported that the sum of \$300 was needed, and assessors were chosen to assess that amount on the property holders of the parish. The amount was paid to four different ministers that year.

The society was so far purely voluntary, and the town "Voted to assess and collect the minister's tax of the members of the East Society, so called." At a later meeting, however, the town ordered that the East Society be paid its share of the tax, amounting to \$88.26.

Early in 1826 there came to Ware the most interesting and remarkable man that was ever connected with the town, — Mr. Sampson V. S. Wilder, one of the merchant-princes of the first half of the nineteenth century. Mr. Wilder was born in 1780, and began his successful business career in 1802, from which time he was concerned with important transactions on both sides of the Atlantic, enjoying confidential relations with great men both in Europe and America. On the fall of Napoleon Bonaparte, for whom he entertained

a high regard, Mr. Wilder formed the plan of bringing the Emperor to America on one of the ships under his direction. The plan, which, however, was abandoned, was to conceal Napoleon in a large cask<sup>1</sup> with a false compartment from which water was constantly to drip. Arrived in America Mr. Wilder proposed further to entertain the Emperor for at least six months at his country residence at Bolton, Massachusetts.

In 1825 Mr. Wilder became president of the manufacturing company having its works in Ware, and he was selected by the directors and principal stockholders to take charge of the establishment. As an inducement to his acceptance, the stockholders proposed a grant of \$3,000 toward building a church at the village, on condition that the good people of the neighborhood raise \$3,000 in addition; Mr. Wilder to be invested with full powers to superintend the erection of said house and of settling a pastor. Regarding this as "an obvious call of Providence," Mr. Wilder assented to the arrangement.

The rare volume containing Mr. Wilder's records, published in 1865, gives in his own words a curious and entertaining picture of our town as it appeared to him in 1826. As the History of Ware would not be complete without Mr. Wilder's pungent and vigorous characterization, it is here quoted without comment.

I soon ascertained that our head-machinist and agent were uncompromising Unitarians, and that they had placed as overseers in all the departments either Unitarians or Universalists; that most of the workmen, consisting of about two hundred in one machinist establishment, were of the same persuasions; that they attended no church or regular preaching, and that on each Sunday some hundred or more young men and women were in the habit of going on board the company's scows and rowing up the large pond of the establishment for a mile or two out of town, and having at a groggery what they called a jollification, thus desecrating the holy Sabbath. I also found that the old inhabitants, who were located from one to two miles around the

<sup>1</sup> "Elba and the Hundred Days," Imbert de St. Armand. Also "Records of S. V. S. Wilder."

village, and who were mostly orthodox, stood entirely aloof from associating with the establishment in any religious exercises.

On arriving at Ware, it seems that the news had already reached the village of the decisions of the Boston company, and in walking through the various workshops and factories on the afternoon of my arrival, I think I never beheld so many sorrowful and wry faces. On the following evening I assembled all the old inhabitants of the neighborhood, who gave me a most cordial reception, made known to them the object of my mission, and stated to them that I had brought with me \$3,000 towards building a meeting-house, on condition that a similar sum should be raised among themselves for its completion.

In addition to this sum, I was authorized to select a spot on the company's lands for the location of the house. A subscription paper was immediately drawn up, and by heading the paper with \$500 on my own account, I had the satisfaction of seeing subscribed that very evening \$2,700, and in three days the \$300 additional was made up. In ten days I had my plans for the house drawn out, and a contract for building it completed.

There were, however, two parties, one of which wished the house to be located on the hill,<sup>1</sup> and the other in the valley nearer the centre of the village. Foreseeing that it would require \$500 more to complete the house according to my views, I gave out that whichever party would first subscribe the requisite \$500 in addition to their former subscriptions, the house should be located in conformity to their wishes. The hill party having raised this sum, the house was located on the hill.

In consequence of the lawyer of the village having invited his brother-in-law the Rev. Parsons Cooke to preach for a Sabbath or two, I providentially found this orthodox clergyman in the village on my arrival there.

In less than six months this temple was erected and completed, and I trust, by divine grace, has proved none other than the house of God, the very gate of heaven, to hundreds who are now worshipping in that sacred temple above.

The next question was to make choice of a suitable pastor. After hearing the Rev. Parsons Cooke for several Sabbaths, the orthodox members of the church, being the

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wilder's idea was to make the site of the church a civic centre, with a court-house opposite.



majority, with great unanimity fixed on this clergyman, distinguished for soundness of doctrine, superior abilities, and eminent piety, as their first pastor.

But few months had elapsed before there was a wonderful display of the power and grace of God in that highly favored village, in the conviction and conversion of sinners by the faithful, pungent preaching and parochial visits of the reverend pastor and deacons of the church. A glorious revival of religion was the result.

The eighteen months during which Mr. Wilder acted as agent of the Manufacturing Company were stirring times.

Before Dec. 23, 1826, two hundred and fifty-seven persons filed certificates with the town clerk as being members of the East Parish, and in the same year an attempt was made to establish a line between the new parish and the old.

Feeling evidently ran high, and neighbors found it hard to live peaceably. In the following year a strong movement arose for dividing the town, together with the Church, and E. H. Bellows and others petitioned the Legislature for such a division. The petition was promptly followed by a remonstrance led by Aaron Gould. Religion and politics became badly mixed. The election of a representative to the Legislature in 1828 hinged upon the division question, and resulted in a tie vote. Finally, however, it was agreed that Muddy Brook should form the dividing line between the parishes, though the right was reserved for individuals to join any religious body they pleased. This plan was submitted to the Legislature, and in 1829 the East Congregational Society was incorporated.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "At a meeting of a respectable number of the inhabitants of Ware Village convened at the Mr. Phelps Hotel on the 7th of March 1826 to consult on the propriety of erecting a house for public worship, the meeting was called to order by S. V. S. Wilder, Esq.

1st. Joseph Cummings Esq. was chosen Chairman.

2nd. Luther Brown Scribe.

3rd. Voted a deputation be sent to those interested who are not present. Col. Anthony Olney Chosen.

4th. Voted that it is the sense of the meeting that a House for public worship should be built in this village on the spot & on the terms proposed by the Agent of the corporation.

5th. Voted there be a building committee consisting of five & that sd committee be nominated from the chair.



So ably and shrewdly was the meeting-house financed that a short description of the plan is worth recording. What today would be called an underwriting syndicate was formed, and one hundred shares at \$70 each were put on sale. The Ware Manufacturing Company agreed to furnish the land and \$3000, in consideration of which they received fifty shares at a face value of \$3500.

The other share-holders were as follows:

S. V. S. Wilder . . . . .	4 shares	
Benj <sup>n</sup> Paige . . . . .	2	"
Jedediah Tucker . . . . .	2	"
David Tucker . . . . .	1	"
Joseph Cummings . . . . .	2	"
Calvin Morse . . . . .	2	"
Homer Bartlett . . . . .	2	"
Samuel Phelps . . . . .	2	"
Alpheus Demond . . . . .	3	"
William Paige . . . . .	2	"
Jonathan Brown . . . . .	2	"
Geo. W. Porter & Co. . . . .	2	"
Joel Rice . . . . .	3	"
William Snow . . . . .	1	"
Horace Goodrich . . . . .	2	"
Henry Adkins . . . . .	1	"
Warner Brown . . . . .	2	"
Luther Brown . . . . .	1	"
Allender Brakenridge . . . . .	1	"
Alvin Leonard . . . . .	1	"
Isaac Magoon . . . . .	1	"
Avery Cary . . . . .	1	"
Henry Graves . . . . .	1	"
Anthony Olney . . . . .	4	"
Ansel Kenfield . . . . .	1	"
Gideon Gardner . . . . .	2	"
		Assigned to R. Bosworth 1/2 share to I. Gorham

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6th. Voted that Col. Anthony Olney, Mr. Alpheus Demond, Homer Bartlett Esq. & Capt. Joel Rice be on sd committee.

7th. Voted that the Chairman of sd Committee nominate one on sd Committee & Joseph Cummings Esq. was Chosen.

8th. Voted sd Committee be authorized to call a meeting at any time they may think expedient.

9th. Voted that this meeting be forthwith dissolved.

Luther Brown Scribe "

Upon the completion of the house the pews were to be sold at public auction, and the proceeds of the sale paid to the subscribers *pro rata*, provided only that should the sales produce more than the cost of the house, the overplus should form a fund for the support of the Society. The sale of pews netted \$134.41 over and above the liabilities including interest, which sum was in 1835 turned over to a committee for painting and repairing the house. The "underwriters" were reimbursed in full for their cash payments, the Manufacturing Company giving a receipt on Oct. 27, 1831 for \$3001.45, signed by "Chris<sup>r</sup> Colt, Agt. of the Ware Mf. Co. and of the Hampshire Mf. Co."

The church at Ware Factory Village was "constituted" April 12, 1826, the Rev. Alfred Ely of Monson preaching the sermon.

The corner-stone was laid June 21, 1826, with an address by Rev. Joseph Vaill of Brimfield. On the same day the Rev. Parsons Cooke was ordained "to the pastoral care of the East Evangelical Society in Ware." Rev. John Woodbridge, D.D. of Hadley preached, taking as his subject "The Courageous Minister." Rev. Mr. Ely delivered the charge: "Constituted as you now are, by the will of God, a Bishop in Christ's visible family, we *charge* you" etc. Rev. Ralph W. Gridley of Williamstown gave the Right Hand of Fellowship.

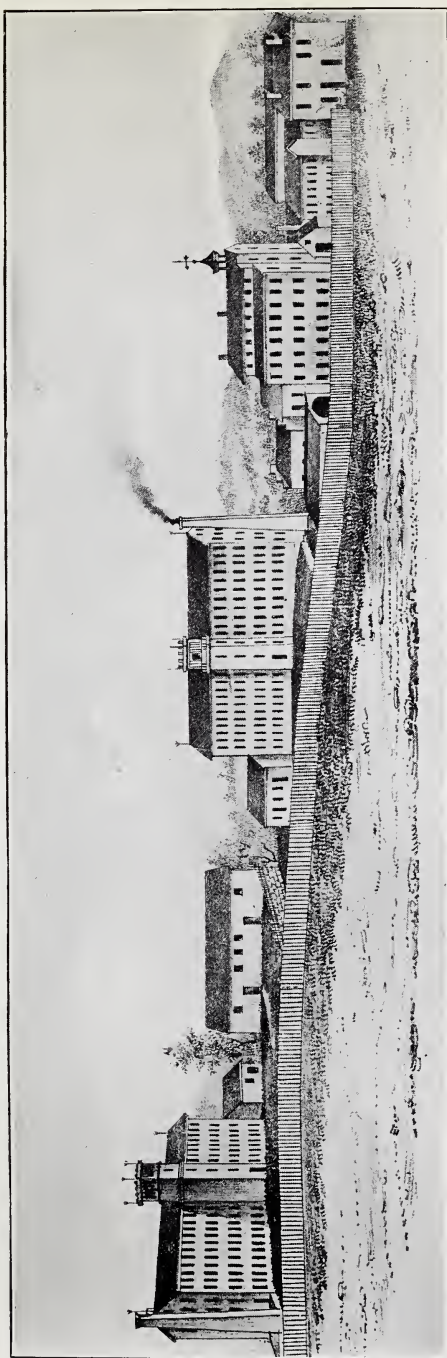
Mr. Cooke preached at the dedication of the meeting-house on Jan. 24, 1827.

The Rev. Parsons Cooke served the East Parish until the spring of 1835. He was a noted controversialist, and was "in the very forefront of the battle in the conflict with Universalism and every form of error. Well might he be surnamed Boanerges. In the comparative quiet of Ware Village he first learned the use of weapons afterwards wielded by him with great power."<sup>1</sup>

In 1832 Mr. Cooke stirred up a hornet's nest by his advocacy of an extreme position on the temperance question, the result being that twenty-eight persons withdrew from the East Society to form a third Congregational Society. The

<sup>1</sup> "Records of S. V. S. Wilder."









story is told in a letter of Miss Cornelia Gould's, whose mind was filled with interesting historical lore.

Nov. 29, '88

W. S. Hyde,

Sir,

Your note of the 27th is duly received. Such information as I can give from memory and tradition, is at your service.

When looking over the papers of the late Seth Gould, I came across the clerk's book of that 3rd Cong. Society: there were but two or three pages of record, do not find it now among my possessions and cannot tell what I did with it. Doubtless you have the exact date in the records you mention.

The occasion of its formation was the opposition aroused to the course of the ministers of the 1st & 2nd churches in regard to the Temperance movement. Rev. Parsons Cooke prepared and preached a very radical sermon according to existing ideas, on moderate drinking and the sale of spirits.

Rev. A. B. Reed invited him to preach it in his pulpit. It offended many in both Soc. As the State law then stood I believe there was compulsory membership to some religious Society. The offended people signed off, as it was called, and formed a 3rd organization: raised 40 doll for preaching, hired a Unitarian minister from Boston, I do not remember his name, who preached 4 Sabbaths, twice in the hall of the old white schoolhouse in the Village, and twice in the hall of the Centre Schoolhouse.

I remember going to the meetings; being brought up in the Tavern I was of course in the thick of the fight, but too young to understand it then.

I believe it was at the next session of the Legislature that the support of preaching was made voluntary and no more was heard of the 3rd Society. The families of these men returned mainly to the old places of worship, and were sometimes accused of stealing preaching. In many cases the bitter feelings lived on till the generation were all gone. Mr. Gideon Lamberton is the only one living that I know of who belonged to that Society.

Very Cordially,

Cornelia A. Gould.

In 1835 the Rev. Cyrus Yale became pastor of the church. During his ministry musical instruments were first used in public worship. A double-bass viol was purchased by subscription for \$60 in 1836.<sup>1</sup> Previous to this the pitch-pipe and serpentine had been used. Afterwards other instruments, as flute and violin, were introduced. A melodeon was placed in the meeting-house in 1856, and an organ was purchased in 1862. Mr. Yale remained but two years, being succeeded by Rev. J. E. Woodbridge in 1838. In the fall of 1840 Mr. Woodbridge asked a dismission, and in 1842 Rev. Nahum Gale was called to the ministry.

The church building erected in 1826 was old-fashioned, with high pews, and the pulpit was between the doors, reached by a winding stairway. As one entered the church he faced the congregation. In 1846 a movement was made to remodel the building. In order to do this the rights of the Proprietors had to be extinguished, and a sum of money was raised to purchase such pews as were not donated to the society.

Some were in favor of a new location for the church, while others desired to retain the present location. The controversy led to some hard feeling which a few never got over. The house was remodelled at a cost of nearly \$3000.

Dr. Gale having been called to a professorship in East Windsor Seminary, resigned the parish in 1851. He is described as an unusual man. "His intellect was naturally vigorous, and he strengthened it by diligent study and by intercourse with intelligent society." His departure was keenly regretted.

The Rev. T. S. Colton was settled as pastor in 1851, remaining until 1855. He was succeeded by Rev. A. E. P. Perkins, who remained until 1884. During his pastorate the parsonage was purchased and the present chapel built. Previously the building on Nenameseck Square, now occupied by the fire company, was used for lectures and evening meetings, having been built for that purpose in 1857. Before that, in 1848, a building formerly used by the Factory

<sup>1</sup> This same year the town voted to pay for a pall and bier for the use of the Parish.

Company as a counting-room had been given to the society.

After the resignation of Dr. Perkins in 1884, the Rev. A. T. Perry accepted a call to the parish.

In 1887 a committee was appointed to consider repairs on the church which all felt were becoming necessary. An architect was employed, plans drawn, and subscriptions raised. Twenty-one thousand dollars was expended, including the cost of the organ, and the church put in its present shape.

The question of free seats was raised as early as 1872, and a committee appointed to investigate the subject, but no report is found on record. In 1888 the subject was again brought up, the parish canvassed for pledges, and the free-pew system adopted when the remodelled church was opened in 1889.

Mr. Perry tendered his resignation in 1890 to become President of Marietta College, and the Rev. Austin B. Bassett began his services in January, 1891, continuing until the summer of 1905, when he was called to the chair of Pastoral Theology in the Hartford Theological Seminary.

The Rev. George B. Hatch entered upon the pastorate in the fall of 1906.

At the installation of the Rev. Parsons Cooke on June 21, 1826, Dr. Woodbridge referred to the new village of Ware as follows:

It is with no ordinary emotions, that we cast our eye over this busy and flourishing village, so suddenly with all its beauty, raised from waste sterility by the hand of diligence, and containing within itself so many of the elements of wealth, respectability and influence. With sentiments of a far more pleasing and holy character, we contemplate the direction, that, even in its infancy, has been given to its enterprise, in the establishment of a church, founded on evangelical principles, and in securing the blessings of the christian ministry. Every good man must rejoice with this Church and Society, in the constancy and unanimity of their efforts, and the successful result, they this day witness under, as we believe, the approving care of Heaven.



The following is a quotation from Rev. Parsons Cooke's sermon at the dedication of the meeting-house on Jan. 24, 1827:

I should do violence to your feelings should I fail of giving expression to the grateful emotions, that swell your hearts, in view of that good providence which has brought this enterprize to so prosperous an issue. Standing for the first time a worshipping assembly within these walls, a train of the most animating and grateful recollections comes pouring over your hearts. Roll back the wheels of time, and place things where they stood but one year ago. Remove from the view every thing that has been done for Zion here. Let the eye dwell on the scene as it then was. Zion is a waste. Few care for her interest. And those few have 'hung their harps upon the willows' saying 'how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land.' No Church exists to engage the protection of a covenant God, and embody the dispersed of Israel. Here and there a solitary captive daughter of Zion pours forth her silent prayer for deliverance. Here and there an individual arm is put forth to restore the breaches; but without hope and without strength.

But what hath God wrought! Passing, by a sudden transition from that to the present time, we seem standing amid the wild illusions of a dream. A choice vine has been planted in a very fruitful hill, the broken walls are raised, the stated ordinances of the gospel are established to cultivate and nourish the vineyard of the Lord. And scarce had Zion from the gatherings of the dispersed, done enlarging the place of her tent, when a cloud fraught with mercy arises, its contents descend, the mercy drops exceed the drops of the morning dew, and our astonished souls exclaim, 'who are these that fly as clouds and as doves to their windows.' And to crown the whole, God has so succeeded your plans and efforts, that this long wished for day has come, when you witness the completion of a noble design, when the finishing stroke has been applied to this house of God. And now you may enter his courts with thanksgiving, and his gates with praise. Here then on the tablet of grateful hearts, inscribe "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

And with grateful and united hearts, come along with me, my brethren, to the solemn act for which we have now convened, the dedication of this temple to God.

## BAPTIST SOCIETY

At an early date a Baptist Society was established in the edge of Hardwick just north of the Ware line and west of Muddy Brook. Baptists were mentioned in the Hardwick records as early as 1777, though the formation of this society was not effected until 1797. The church in connection with the society was instituted in 1801, at which time a house of worship was erected. The first pastor, Rev. Ebenezer Burt, was ordained in 1798. He held the pastorate nearly thirty years, being dismissed in 1827. He afterward lived in Ware many years, and is remembered by a few of the old residents as a venerable man, occupying a seat in the pulpit and leading in prayer long after he was too feeble to preach. He died in Athol in 1861 at the age of 96. He is remembered by some as "Old Priest Burt" and by others as "Elder Burt." A considerable number of Mr. Burt's followers lived in Ware, and in 1810 the town voted that his congregation should receive its share of the singing-master's labor. In 1811 it was voted to abate the taxes of those persons that belong to Mr. Burt's church, thus leaving them free to support the religious organization of their choice. Certificates of membership in other than the parish church were filed with the town clerk, registration being necessary to gain abatement of the regular minister's tax. In 1811 twenty-three persons presented certificates as belonging to another religious society, other names being added from year to year, making a total of something over one hundred during the fifteen years that such certificates were filed.<sup>1</sup>

In 1812 Lemuel Andrews and Jonathan Harwood, singing-committee for the Baptist Society, received from the selectmen an order for \$4.24, that being the society's share of the music appropriation for the previous year.

Mr. Burt's successor was Rev. Joseph Glazier, who was installed in 1831. In the following year a new church was built. Rev. Nelson B. Jones followed Mr. Glazier in 1837,

<sup>1</sup> Spofford's "Gazetteer of Massachusetts for 1828," mentions at Ware "A Baptist Society, vacant." This must be the Free-will Baptist society mentioned by Mr. Hyde as having existed for a time in the south-west part of the town. It is again referred to in the *Westfield Journal* of Dec. 16, 1834.

to be succeeded two years later by Rev. William Brown. About 1840 Mr. Glazier was recalled, and continued as pastor until the society removed to Ware. The meeting-house was sold to Daniel S. Collins and converted into a barn in 1846. It may still be seen at the farm just north of the old burying-ground.

On removing to Ware the society built a meeting-house on Bank Street, opposite the Savings Bank. The basement floor was variously occupied. School was kept in a portion, the district renting the room. A meat market for many years occupied part of the same basement, and also a shoe store.

The first pastor after the removal to Ware was Rev. Amory Gale, ordained in 1846. He was succeeded in 1850 by Rev. J. A. Bullard, who remained until 1853. Then Rev. George E. Fuller became pastor. He died in 1856. Rev. J. E. Wiggins came in the early part of 1857, remaining nearly two years. The last pastor was Rev. J. F. Jones, installed Jan. 1, 1859.

In October, 1860, the meeting-house, which had been dedicated in 1847, was destroyed by fire. Plans were made to rebuild, the insurance money on the building being augmented by subscriptions, but before the work could be gotten under way the Civil War broke out, sending prices high, and diverting interest into other channels. The subscriptions were returned, the land sold and the money divided among the Proprietors.

#### METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist Church in the neighborhood of Ware was situated on Ragged Hill in the borders of West Brookfield. There in 1800 was formed the first class, consisting of seven members, to which others were soon added, and quarterly meetings were led by the circuit preachers. Joshua Crowell, who kept store and tavern at Ware Centre, became the first local leader, and soon received a license to preach and exhort. For twenty years meetings were held at the house and barn of Titus Eddy on the Hill. In 1823 an unpretentious church building was erected. Soon after, in



It is recorded that years later, by Rev. William Brown Jones with Mr. Jones was recalled, and continued in Jones Hall the society resorted to Warr. The next September was with Dr. S. Collins and resorted into a place to visit. It may not be seen at the time just now of the old meeting ground.

The following is Warr the society held a meeting-house at Jones Hall, opposite the Baying Dock. The meeting house was severely damaged. School meeting in a portion of the district visiting the place. A great number for many years, and part of the next movement, and also a state of the.

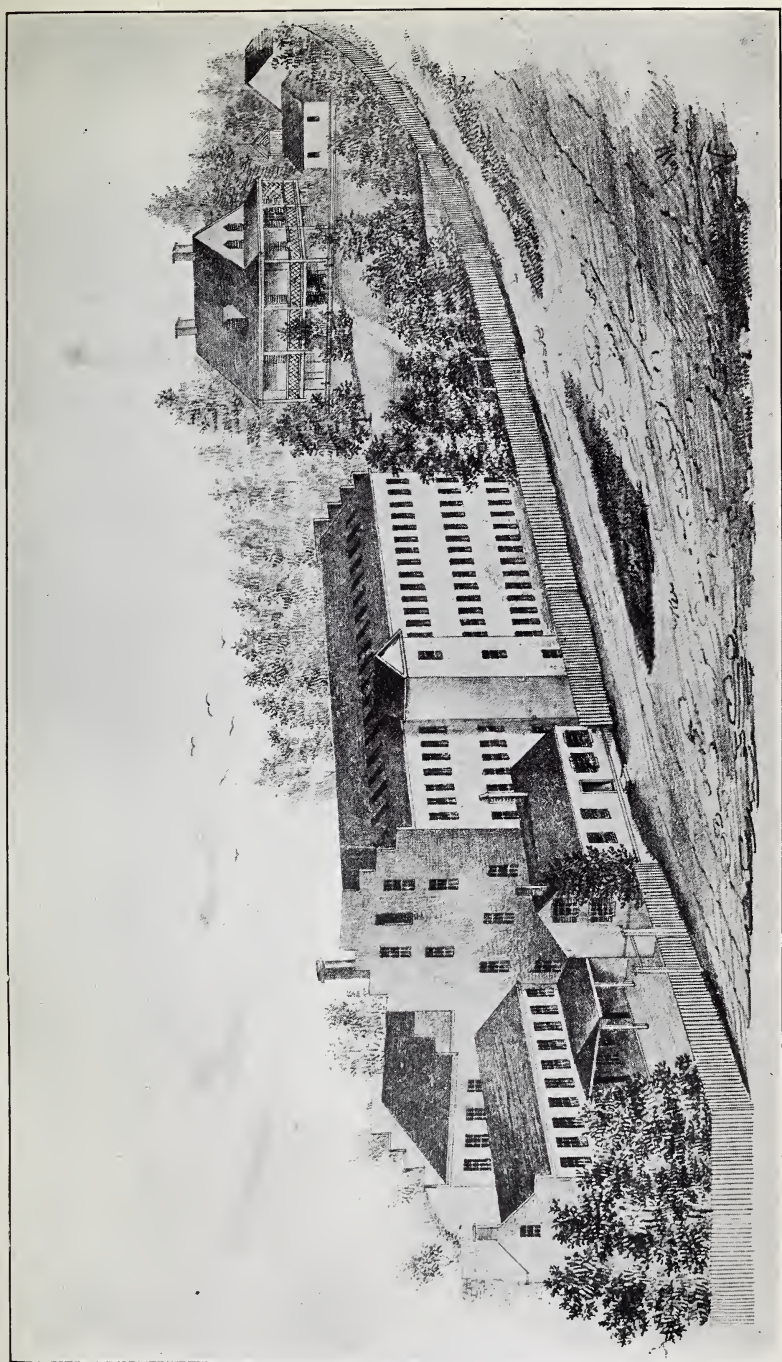
The first meeting after the removal to Warr was Rev. Henry Oakes removed in 1845. He was removed in 1850 by Rev. J. A. Bullock, who remained until 1855. Then Rev. George K. Finner became pastor. He died in 1857. Rev. J. E. Wiggins came in the early part of 1857, remaining nearly two years. The last pastor was Rev. J. P. Jones, removed Jan. 1, 1860.

In 1854, the society, which had been dissolved in 1845, was reorganized. The society were made to re-organize, and the society on the meeting being suggested by subscriptions, but before the work could be getting under way the Civil War broke out, sending prices high, and drawing interest into other directions. The subscriptions were stopped, the land sold and the money divided among the Freeholders.

### WARRING CHURCH

The first Methodist Church in the neighborhood of Warr was founded by August 1851 in the factory of West Brookfield. There a little was known for some time, consisting of about twenty, to which others were soon added, and weekly meetings were held by the church members. Julius Arnold, the first officer and trustee at West Center, became the first local pastor, and were received a license to preach and others. The weekly prayer meetings were held at the house and barn of Elias Pacey on the Hill. In 1853 an independent church building was erected. Soon after, he







1825-26, the growing manufacturing interests of Ware Village attracted many to the locality, and Mr. Crowell began holding services in private homes. The White and the Red schoolhouses were also used, and at one time meetings were held in the Hampshire Mill. In 1841 the society was nearly extinguished by the secession of a Mr. Latham, a preacher, who with a large proportion of the people desired to form an Episcopal Church. The movement appears to have been temporary. In 1843 the Methodists at Ware Village resolved to erect a building and become an independent society. Land was purchased for \$75 and a church erected at a cost of \$1,300. It was a plain structure without spire or steeple. Rev. David Sherman, D.D., was the first settled pastor. The Ragged Hill Society attempted to run alone for a few years, but in 1848 was merged with the Ware church. The old building was transformed into a barn, and still stands beside the valley road, half-way to the village.<sup>1</sup> In the same year the Ware church was incorporated with Ebenezer Stevens president, Joshua Crowell secretary, and Thomas H. Francis treasurer, and the church building was enlarged, vestries, tower and vestibule being added. In 1882 a portion of the great stone step of the Ragged Hill church was removed and placed at the entrance of the village church.

The society acquired a parsonage during the pastorate of Rev. C. M. Hall, who came to the church in 1889.

In September, 1897, the old church building was torn down to make way for a new and more commodious structure. The present building was erected at once, and was dedicated the following June; Rev. J. W. Fulton being pastor at the time. More than thirty different ministers have served the village church. The present pastor is Rev. E. W. Lutterman.

#### UNITARIAN SOCIETY

The first serious movement toward establishing a Unitarian Society was begun in the fall of 1845 under the encouragement of Mr. Charles A. Stevens, who had come to

<sup>1</sup> It may be seen at the old Joseph Eaton place, now owned by Mr. Bohmiller.



town shortly before, and Mr. Henry Lyon,<sup>1</sup> the first agent of the Otis Company. The first meetings were held in a building belonging to the Company, and later in the Water Street Chapel of the East Society. In the fall of 1846 the society was organized. It was a fortunate time, just after the Common had been divided into lots and offered for sale. The society purchased the present site of the meeting-house, and began building in the spring of 1846. The basement was used for meetings before the completion of the entire building. March 18, 1848, the society was incorporated. Samuel A. Whitney was elected clerk, and George Draper moderator. The committee to draft a constitution and by-laws consisted of Chas. A. Stevens, Seth Pierce and Samuel Phelps. The first regular pastor was Rev. Geo. S.<sup>5</sup> Ball, from October, 1847 to July, 1849. He was followed in September, 1852, by Rev. Geo. T. Hill. Rev. S. F. Clarke who became pastor in 1856, died in 1861, after which the church was closed for a year. Rev. John W. Hudson was followed by Rev. Wm. G. Newell. The latter remained until the church, together with the town hall, was burned Nov. 6, 1867. Rebuilding began at once, and the present edifice was dedicated in September, 1869. The next regular pastor was Rev. Thomas Timmins, 1872-73. Following him were John L. Lyon, John L. Marsh, B. V. Stevenson, Victor Southworth, A. C. White, Hans Spoer, O. J. Fairfield, and F. W. Smith.

#### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The first Roman Catholics came to the town at the time of the great expansion of manufacturing interests the middle of the last century. There were occasional ministrations in Ware by priests in whose care were the laborers on the Boston and Albany Railroad at the time of its construction, but no regular services were maintained until after the year 1850. In that year the Rev. William Blenkinsop

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Nahum Gale, pastor of the East Church, went one day to Mr. Lyon to reason with him concerning the affairs of the parish. Unluckily he made some reference to "the new mahogany pulpit." Mr. Lyon interrupted him with, "A mahogany pulpit and a white-pine preacher — Good day, Sir!" The story is vouched for.



was settled as pastor in Chicopee, and began holding monthly services in Ware. Within a few years his people had so increased in numbers that he came twice a month, and Prospect Hill, on the west side of Palmer Road, was purchased. On this site a frame church was built, seating some 300 people, the land about the building being consecrated for a cemetery. By 1860 the entire time of a priest was needed, and the Rev. Patrick Healey became the first resident pastor. Father Healey built a large addition to the church, which was known as St. William's, and added to the acreage of the cemetery which is still known by the same name as the old church. He also purchased several lots on North Street where the present All Saints' Church now stands. After four years Father Healey was transferred to Chicopee, and the Rev. William Moran became pastor. Almost immediately after Father Moran's coming, in 1864, a spire was added to St. William's Church. Father Moran remained in Ware twenty-three years. He was a man of marked individuality, an Irishman of the old school; tall, strong, athletic, gentle-hearted, yet with all the traditional Irish spirit of pugnacity. He was famed as a notable runner in his younger days. He ruled his people with all the strictness of old country custom, looking with disapproval upon the Americanizing tendencies of the rising generation. Father Moran never desired a curate, and carried on the parish alone until his failing health necessitated the appointment of his successor. He lived but a short time after giving up his work.

In 1887 Rev. James Boyle became pastor of the church. Father Boyle was an American, and a veteran of the Civil War. He was a man of unusual power and ability, interesting himself deeply in the affairs of the town as well as of the church. The old St. William's was already outgrown, and Father Boyle undertook the erection of a new church on the North Street lots purchased so many years before. Work on the new structure, dedicated to All Saints, was begun in April, 1888, and the corner-stone was laid August 19. As soon as the basement was completed it was occupied by the congregation, and continued to be used as the place of worship until the completion of the church in 1894. The dedicatory services were held in November of

that year. In 1900 Father Boyle was transferred to Pittsfield, to be succeeded by the Rev. John J. Fallon, who died in 1903. The present pastor is the Rev. John H. Murphy. A tasteful and commodious parochial residence adjoins the church.

#### OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

For twenty years one church answered the needs of the Roman Catholic population of Ware. In the late sixties there began an influx of French Canadians who soon desired a place of worship of their own. On July 16, 1871, the French people of the town were called together in Music Hall by Rev. L. G. Gagnier and a new parish was formed, Father Gagnier remaining at its head for about a year. In 1872 the church on Bank Street was erected and Father Gagnier was succeeded by Rev. Charles Boucher, who continued as pastor for eight years. In May, 1880, the Rev. John T. Sheehan was appointed over the church, and has continued in the pastorate to the present time. He has been for many years the senior clergyman of the town, in order of appointment. During Father Sheehan's pastorate extensive improvements have been made in the parish plant. A parochial school was built on a fine lot of land, ten acres in area, in the north part of the village, and near by a large parochial residence. The school, established and dedicated in 1887, is attended by four hundred pupils, under the charge of nine teachers. A cemetery, nearly thirty acres in extent, belongs to the parish.

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The first Poles came to town in 1886. About 1890 began the immigration of Polish Roman Catholics in large numbers. For several years these people were under the pastoral care of Father Boyle of All Saints, but as their numbers increased they desired a priest of their own nationality. The Rev. Joseph Fux was placed in charge, and a separate parish was formed, though services were held for some time in the basement of All Saints' Church. In 1906

St. Mary's Polish Church was erected on South Street, and was ready for occupancy the following year. The parish purchased a house on the corner of South and Union Streets for a parochial residence, and laid out on the south side of the village a cemetery twenty acres in extent.

### TRINITY CHURCH

Previous to the year 1872 occasional services according to the Prayer Book were held in Ware, but no record of them has been preserved. An attempt to establish services in 1841, when a movement to that end was inaugurated by many Methodists in town, came to nothing, and little more than the fact has been recorded. On such occasions as a clergyman came to town, the news was carried to those who were interested, and service would be held in a hall or private house. On Dec. 9, 1872, thirteen citizens of the town met, a warrant was issued, and a parish duly organized. In the following year Rev. Benjamin T. Hall, formerly a Methodist preacher, was chosen rector of the parish. Services were held in private houses, and in the old chapel of the Congregational Society. After three years Mr. Hall resigned, and Rev. B. W. Atwell followed him, remaining about a year. Then for twelve years only occasional services were held. In the early part of 1887 a new interest was developed and Rev. Chas. W. Duffield was asked to hold regular services during the summer. Mr. Duffield became rector of the parish in October of the same year. In the spring of 1888 the Hartwell lot on the corner of Pleasant and Parks Streets was purchased, and work was begun on a church building. The corner-stone was laid October 3, and the present tasteful structure was completed within a few months. After four and one-half years of service Mr. Duffield resigned, and Rev. E. J. V. Huiginn became rector of the parish, continuing until June, 1895. In the following October Rev. Arthur Chase, the present rector, took charge of the parish. On June 10, 1901, the church, being now fully paid for, was consecrated by Rt. Rev. William Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts. Important additions were made from time to time in the furnishings of the church,



and at present its equipment is complete. In 1910 the old Draper homestead on Church Street was purchased and remodelled into a commodious rectory.

#### CEMETERIES

It was John Read's intention that the church and burial place should be located at the centre of the Manour, and in 1748 he set apart a tract of land "for the founding & continuance of a Parish Church & Christian Burying place forever." The lot was situated a mile or more west of the present meeting-house, on Brimstone Hill. Naturally the people as a whole preferred the centre of the town to the centre of the Manour, and when the church was built in 1750-51, it was placed on the lot where it now stands, facing the east, with the burial place just to the north. Thus the first burying ground of the town came into use. It is a small tract. A careful examination shows it to be crowded with burials, stones being erected over but a small proportion of graves.

The second cemetery at the Centre is upon higher ground, to the north of the old burial place. A record of the town under date of Nov. 19, 1795, is as follows:

Voted to Except of the plat of ground for a Burying Yard upon the proposals on which Mr. Pepper and Capt. Patrick offered to give said ground, which are as follows: Viz,

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Ware in Town meeting assembled, the Subscribers proposeth that on condition the Town will fence the Burying ground with a convenient wall, he will give one hundred and forty five rods of ground for the use of a grave yard for the Town of Ware: Which is humbly submitted, from your humble Serv't, Isaac Pepper.

No deed of this tract has been found, nor further description.

There are no further records bearing on this subject until the year 1809. At town meeting that year it was

voted to choose a committee of seven persons to view the Burying Ground and report their opinions and doings thereon at this meeting. The report was as follows: The committee



have erected two bounds, one on the north-east and one on the south-east, about fourteen rods distant, and proposes to have said ground extend as far west as to make one acre for the burying ground in this town, which was given to said town by Isaac Pepper.

Daniel Gould,  
per order.

The same year it was "voted that the selectmen be authorized to exchange a certain piece of the town's ground for a piece of ground on which the dead hath already been laid formerly belonging to Isaac Pepper." It was also voted to fence the burying ground near the meeting-house with an underpinned fence. A number of orders appear this year for fencing, surveying, and removing brush, and similar orders appear from time to time. The frequency with which fencing is required is almost incredible, nor is it possible, in many instances, to be sure what burying ground is meant.

In this year, 1809, is found the first unmistakable reference to the cemetery on the Palmer Road. "Voted to fence the Burying Ground in the south-east part of the town with posts and rails." The following year, 1810, Joseph Cummings is paid \$16.64 for building a fence around "the grave yard on the plane." Again, in 1821, there is a reference to "the East burying ground."

The writer, after careful search, has been unable to find other references of any sort to this burying ground, in deeds, wills or other ancient documents. What is the history of its origin?

The first burying ground in the Elbow Tract was situated at Palmer Village before 1729. In 1735 another was laid out near the old meeting-house at Palmer Centre. Both of these were a considerable distance from the homes scattered through the northern part of the plantation. It was the custom in all parts of New England for families situated at a distance from a public burying ground to lay the dead in some convenient spot near at hand. Neighbors sometimes used in common<sup>1</sup> such a plot of ground. Thus private burial grounds were not unusual, scattered here and there

<sup>1</sup> For an account of such a neighborhood burying place see the "History of Hardwick," p. 164.

over the country-side. A few such are still found within the limits of Ware. There can be little doubt that the burying ground "in the south-east part of the town" originated as described above. It may have been used at a very early date. The appearance of the ground leads to the conclusion that there were many burials, though but few graves were permanently marked with head-stones. The oldest stone legible today is "In Memory of Miss Sally, Daughter of Mr. Samuel Deensmore, who died Feb. 13th 1786 in the 18th year of her age.

Nipt in the beauteous bloom of Life she dies,  
Too early ripe to dwell below the skies."

The town took charge of this burying ground without formality as to any title to the land.

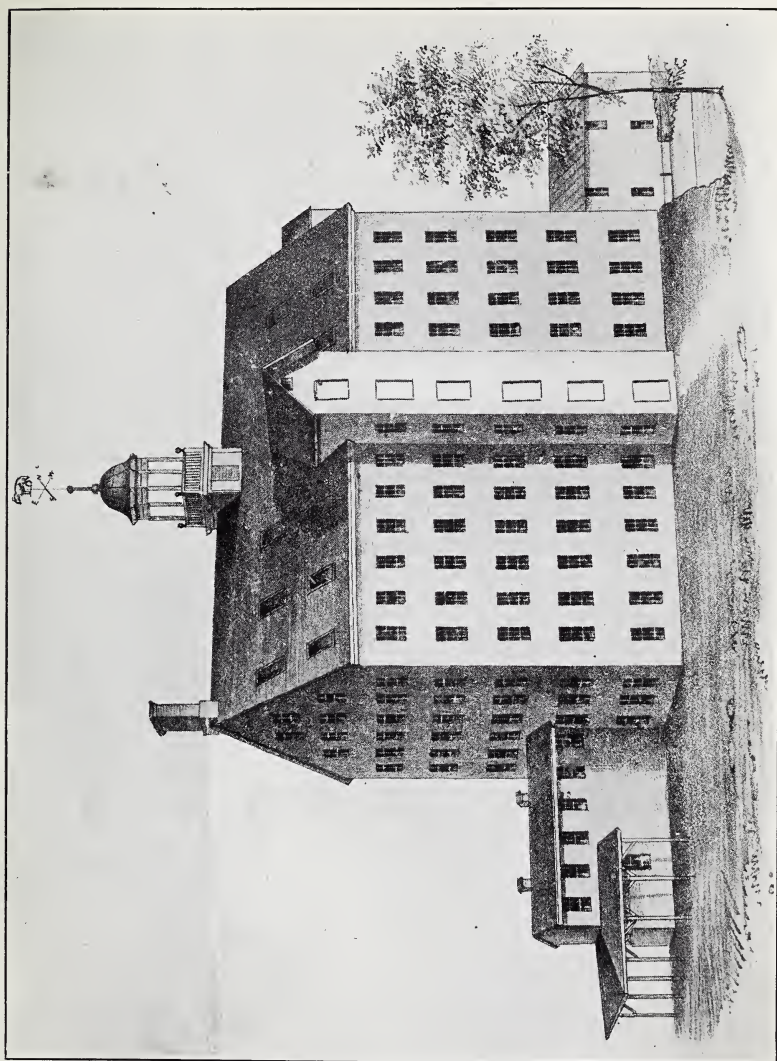
In recent years traditions have grown up, and the popular name of the "Indian Cemetery" has been given to the plot. This name was unknown fifty years ago. It originated from the finding of a few arrowheads in the vicinity of the burying ground. Burials practically ceased with the building of the East Parish Church, and establishment of a new burial plot.

Burials in the yard of the East Church began in 1826, the wife of Benjamin Cummings being the first person interred. This burying ground was enlarged in 1844 by land given to the town by the Otis Company, and again in 1846 by the purchase for \$300 of a lot from Luther Brown. The strip bordering on Church Street was given to the town by Alpheus Demond on condition that burials should not be made beyond the west line of the meeting-house. More space for burials was soon needed, and in 1852 a committee was appointed to consider the acquisition of another burying ground for the village. In the same year Aspen Grove, with an area of 48 acres, was presented to the town by Orrin Sage.

In addition to the public burying places there are three belonging to religious societies; St. William's Cemetery, consecrated in 1850, Mt. Carmel, consecrated in 1881, and St. Mary's, consecrated in 1908.











## X

### THE CIVIL WAR

THE first intimation that finds place in the Town Records of the great struggle between North and South is dated April 18, 1861, only six days after the first gun was fired on Fort Sumter, and is in the form of a petition for a special town meeting addressed to the selectmen of Ware.

Gentlemen:

In consideration of the present emergency which exists in our country, we feel called upon to make common cause with the rest of our countrymen, therefore request your board to call a meeting of the citizens of our town as soon as may be for consultation and for the purpose, if need be, of raising money to provide for such as may be called from our town to take part in the great struggle of the nation, and take such measures as may be necessary therein.

In response to this a warrant was issued April 23, calling for a meeting on May 1.

At the meeting resolutions were offered by W. S. B. Hopkins, Esq., as follows:

Whereas the present state of the country has compelled the president of the U. S. to call for the militia of the several states to sustain the honor of the flag and

Whereas further requisitions may be made to an extent not known, wherefore, since patriotism demands preparation by the citizens of Ware in town meeting assembled, be it

1st Resolved; that a sum not exceeding \$5000 be and hereby is appropriated to equip such volunteers as may be raised in said Ware, to provide for their families in their absence, and for all purposes connected with the present war.

A second resolution provided for the raising of funds, and a third for the appointment of a committee of gentlemen to manage and expend such moneys as should be raised.

All these resolutions were adopted. Further it was

Resolved, That the committee be instructed to pay \$20 per man to each volunteer from this town when they shall be mustered into actual service; and that they (the committee) pay at the rate of one dollar per day to those who enlist while engaged in drilling.

During the summer and early autumn interest in the conflict steadily increased, and the war-fever reached its height in October. At that time, Oct. 10, 1861, an agricultural fair was held in Ware. There were present at the fair Capt. W. S. B. Hopkins, Nelson F. Bond, W. I. Allen and Luther Howell, the last three students from Amherst College. A conference of these men resulted in the announcement of a war meeting for that evening, directly after the distribution of prizes. The meeting was held, stirring speeches were made, and an enlistment roll was placed upon a table in the hall. Enlistments began at once amid great enthusiasm. The next day the roll was placed in Captain Hopkins's office for further names, and in two or three days the company was filled up. The town then engaged Major Raymond of Boston to drill the company, which he did until November 9, when the men were sent to Camp Seward at Pittsfield.

Here<sup>1</sup> we lay shovelling snow, and drilling very little. We were in barracks so thick that we could hardly stir, obliged to lie abed days to keep warm; and to make things more pleasant we went on guard about once every four days. It was so cold that we had to run to keep from freezing. After a while we packed up our traps and started for Camp Chase, Lowell, remaining there a week, after which we started for the Land of Sugar.

Company D, 31st Regiment Mass. Volunteers sailed from Boston on the *S. S. Mississippi* on the twenty-second of February, 1862, for Ship Island at the mouth of the Mississippi river which General Butler made a rendezvous for an attack upon New Orleans.

About sixty Ware men were enlisted in Company D, and

<sup>1</sup> Diary of Luther Fairbanks.

they were allowed to elect their own officers, those elected being afterwards commissioned by General Butler. The Ware Company, as it was called, was the first to land at New Orleans.

Officers of Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol.: Captain W. S. B. Hopkins, First Lieutenant William Irving Allen, Second Lieutenant Luther Howell, First Sergeant Nelson F. Bond.

At a town meeting held July 26, 1862, the following preamble and resolutions were presented by Orrin Sage, Esq.:

Whereas at a meeting of the citizens of Ware on the 17th inst. it was voted to give as a bounty to each volunteer who would enlist in the army of the United States the sum of \$100 when mustered into service, And Whereas a subscription was made by individuals guarantying said sum until the voters could act directly on the subject, And Whereas we are now assembled by warrant of the Selectmen to consider the subject of furnishing the quota required of this town, it is hereby voted: That we approve of this act and authorize the Treasurer of the town to borrow all the money that may be necessary to pay the 31 soldiers who may enlist from this town the said sum of \$100 each. And Whereas, our country is engaged in suppressing a most wicked rebellion; and although this town, having already furnished more than their share of volunteers for the army and are now called upon to furnish 31 more men, being our quota of the 300,000 called for by the President of the U. S. and of the 15,000 required from this state, It is hereby Resolved: That we approve of the call for the 300,000 men as expedient and necessary, and earnestly hope that our citizens will rally to the flag of our Union until it shall fly in peace and security and become respected throughout our land.

Resolved that we now pledge ourselves to furnish our share of the quota appointed to this town, and to furnish national aid for the support of the war, and make sacrifices if necessary to sustain the government and the army in their endeavors to support the union of their states and to defeat the rebel leaders and traitors who are engaged in destroying the government they have sworn to support.

Resolved: That if there should be a failure to get the number of men called for by voluntary enlistment we would



recommend to the government to call out by draft 500,000 men to take the field at once, to uphold the constitution and liberties of our country, and to put down those who are fighting to destroy the best government on earth, and the best interests of our land, under which *they* as well as *we* have prospered more than seventy years past.

The resolutions were adopted, and the bounty of \$100 was directed to be paid to each volunteer who should enlist for a period of nine months.

At the March meeting of 1863, it was "voted To appoint a Committee of Five to Erect in Aspen Grove Cemetery a Monument in Commemoration of those citizens of this Town who have lost or shall lose their lives in the Army or Navy during the present War—Said monument not to cost the town more than three hundred dollars." The committee consisted of

A. E. P. Perkins  
S. J. Wethrell  
Lyman White  
William Hyde  
Milton Lewis

Little or nothing was done at the time, and in 1866 the committee was authorized to erect the monument at a cost not exceeding \$1500. The work was soon undertaken, and the monument was erected the following year at a cost of \$1200. It stands near the principal entrance of Aspen Grove Cemetery, and has on its face the following inscription:

#### Our Patriot Soldiers, 1865

N. C. Andrews	J. J. Rogers	H. V. B. Grout
G. F. Barr	F. H. Saunders	W. F. Howard
J. Buckley	G. W. Snow	J. W. Lawton
O. Cummings	J. W. Tisdale	M. McNancy
J. M. Dunbar	J. Woodis	L. C. Olds
A. Fisherdict	C. H. Ball	T. Ronan
J. M. Gage	E. A. Barr	W. D. Snell
J. Glynn	H. A. Crocker	J. Stone
W. Hastings	G. F. Dunbar	W. Witherow
J. C. Johnston	F. H. Eastwood	W. E. Wright
R. McNary	J. S. Fisherdict	1867
A. B. Murdock	W. F. Gardner	

On the right side are the names of

P. Maloney

W. F. Hatstat

D. Combs

F. Denny

H. A. Wilcox

N. A. Craw

T. Stafford

G. Gashell

The number of militia enrolled on the Town Records in 1863 was 253. In 1864 the number held liable for military service was 342.

In April, 1864, a sum of money was appropriated for the payment of a bounty of \$125 each to volunteers who had enlisted during the past year, and again in July it was unanimously "voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5500 to pay the 44 men that we are called to furnish." A further appropriation of \$8,558 was made in May, 1865, for "volunteer purposes."

### MILITARY RECORDS

(B, BORN; M, MUSTERED IN; DIS., DISCHARGED; E, ENGAGEMENTS.)

Alexander, Isaac. b. 1837. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Dis. Oct. 9, 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted Jan. 4, 1864 in Co. A, 57 Mass. Vol. Wounded in shoulder at Winchester. Prisoner in Lincoln Tobacco Factory, Richmond, Va., from Aug. 1861 until Feb. 1862.

Andrews, Newell C. b. 1847. M. Jan. 14, 1864. Private in Co. M, New Battalion 1 Mass. Vol. Cavalry. Died in the Camp Hospital at Readville Jan. 26, 1864.

Bacon, Marble F. b. 1842. M. Aug. 5, 1861. Private in Co. H, 21 Mass. Vol. Dis. June, 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted Jan. 6, 1864 in Co. C, 4 Mass. Vol. Cavalry. Dis. June, 1865 for disability.

Bacon, Newell Austin. b. 1816. M. Dec. 15, 1861. Private in Co. H, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Mar. 11, 1864 for disability.

Bacon, William H. b. 1843. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Dis. Feb. 25, 1863 for disability. E. at Winchester and Cedar Mt.

Baker, Frank. b. 1837. M. Aug. 31, 1861 for 3 yrs. Sergeant in Co. H, 49 New York Vol. Participated in over twenty engagements. Confined in Libby prison for 6 mos.

Ball, Charles H. R. b. 1834. M. Sept. 2, 1862. Private in Co. K, 37 Mass. Vol. Died at Windmill Point, Va., Jan. 26, 1863.

Bannister, Matthew. b. 1817. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. In the spring of 1864 becoming disabled for active duty he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson.

Barnes, Julius J. b. 1840. M. May 25, 1861 for 3 yrs. Sergeant in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. E. at Winchester, Shenandoah Valley, Cedar Mt., Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam and Harper's Ferry.

Barnes, Martin L. b. 1843. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Dis. May 25, 1862 for disability. E. at Ball's Bluff and Winchester.

Barr, Edwin A. b. 1847. M. Dec. 12, 1863. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. Died at Martinsburg, Va., Mar. 11, 1864.

Barr, George F. b. 184-. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Died at New Orleans Nov. 28, 1862.

Bartlett, William. b. 1818. M. Aug. 30, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. On account of disability he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps in May, 1863.

Barton, Daniel M. b. 1843. M. June 21, 1861. Private in Co. E, 10 Mass. Vol. E. at Fredericksburg, Mary's Heights, Gettysburg and The Wilderness.

Barton, Henry B. b. 1839. M. at Springfield, June 21, 1861 as private in Co. E, 10 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted, on the quota of Ware, June 19, 1864 in 37 Mass. Vol. E. at Yorktown, Williamsburg, Antietam and others.

Barton, Silas A. b. 1846. M. June 6, 1863 for 3 yrs. Corporal in Co. D, 1 Battalion Mass. Heavy Artillery. Term of service spent in garrison duty.

Barton, William Allen. b. 1837. M. July 13, 1862. First Sergeant in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. Dis. Nov. 24, 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted July 20, 1864 for 100 days as private in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. Died at Ware Oct. 3, 1865.

Bassett, Elias A. b. 1829. M. July 31, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. Detailed as Wagoner. E. at Opequan Creek and Appomattox Court House. Wounded at Mt. Jackson.

Bassett, Wyatt M. b. 1845. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Corporal in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Sept. 29, 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted July, 1864 for 100 days in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. Dis. Nov. 1864 with rank of First Sergeant.

Batiste, Joseph. M. June, 1862. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol.



Benham, George W. b. 1847. M. July 20, 1864 for 100 dys. Private in Co. H, 8 Mass. Vol.

Bennett, Albert. b. 1843. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 23, 1864. Killed in action at Sabine Cross Roads, La., Apr. 8, 1864.

Blackmer, Luke H. M. July 12, 1861. Private in Co. F, 15 Mass. Vol.

Blackmer, Perez. b. 1843. M. Sept. 20, 1861. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Mar. 1, 1864. Taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff and confined, for a time, at Andersonville, Ga.

Bliss, Almus. b. 1825. M. Oct. 1, 1861. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Dec. 1863 on the quota of Brimfield. Participated in the engagements of his regiment.

Blood, Henry S. b. 1827. M. Dec. 26, 1861. Assistant Surgeon 57 Illinois Vol. with the rank of First Lieutenant. Died at Fort Donaldson, Tenn., Mar. 4, 1862.

Bond, Amos D. b. 1835. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Detached for duty on the Pontoon Train in the Dept. of the Gulf.

Bond, Nelson Freeman. b. 1839. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Sergeant in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. 2nd. Lieut. July, 1862. First Lieut. Nov. 1862. Captain Aug. 1864. Dis. Sept. 1865 as Captain and Brevet Major. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson, Red River Campaign and Siege of Mobile.

Bond, Sylvester Bowen. b. 1841. M. Dec. 3, 1861. Sergeant in Co. G, 31 Mass. Vol. 2nd. Lieut. Jan. 1863. First Lieut. Dec. 1863. Dis. Dec. 1865 with rank of Brevet Captain. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Brainerd, Henry Paine. b. 1839. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Corporal in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Sergeant Feb. 20, 1862. Dis. June 29, 1863 for disability resulting from typhoid fever.

Brashnahan, Thomas. M. Apr. 1861 for 3 mos. Private in Co. E, 4 Conn. Vol.

Breckenridge, Asa. b. 1841. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. His company had charge of the Pontoon Train during the march through the Teche Country, and at the siege of Port Hudson.

Buckley, Daniel. b. 1825. M. July 31, 1862. Sergeant in Co. H, 34 Mass. Vol. Participated in engagements of his regiment until Sept. 22, 1864, when, wounded in the leg at Fisher's Hill, he was sent to the hospital. Dis. May 25, 1865.



Buckley, John. b. 1841. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. On duty in the Shenandoah Valley until May 24, 1862, when he was taken prisoner of war. Died in Richmond, Va., Oct. 6, 1862.

Canterbury, George B. b. 1837. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Sergeant in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. First Sergeant Dec. 1, 1862. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson. Wounded and taken prisoner at Sabine Cross Roads and confined in the hospital at Mansfield, La. Paroled and sent to Marine Hospital, New Orleans, where he recovered and returned to duty.

Caryl, Henry O. b. 1834. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Participated in all the engagements of his company.

Cashill, George. b. 1829. M. Dec. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Cavennaugh, Thomas. M. Sept. 1861. Private in Co. K, 10 Mass. Vol.

Chapin, Francis Luther. b. 1844. M. July 20, 1864 for 100 days. Sergeant in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. Term of service spent in guard and provost duty.

Chilson, Lucius H. b. 1840. M. May 25, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Participated in the engagements of the Army of the Potomac in which his regiment took part. With Gen. Sherman in the march to Atlanta.

Coney, Edwin H. b. 1844. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Taken prisoner during the retreat up the Shenandoah Valley and confined at Danville and Belle Isle. Paroled and transferred to Camp Distribution. Enlisted under assumed name of "Lenhart" in a loyal Virginia Reg. No subsequent tidings.

Coney, Hubert Mason. b. 1844. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Marksville Plains, Siege of Port Hudson, Bynam's Mills, Yellow Bayou and other minor engagements.

Coney, William F. b. 1834. Drafted Oct. 16, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. B, 177 Penn. Militia. His term of service was spent in the performance of guard duty.

Connell, James. M. Aug. 1861. Private in 21 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol.

Converse, Charles. M. Aug. 1861. Private in Co. K, 21 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted in New York Artillery.

Converse, Chauncey. b. 1806. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol.

Coombs, Daniel. M. Aug. 1861. Private in Co. E, 21 Mass. Vol.

Corbit, Frederick. b. 1833. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign. Enlisted Dec. 29, 1864 in U. S. Navy and was assigned to duty in the West Gulf Squadron.

Cowles, Horace M. b. 1826. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Detailed for pontoon duty in the Dept. of the Gulf.

Cowles, Marcus M. b. 1821. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Craven, James. b. 1845. M. Jan. 15, 1862. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. On account of being under age he was claimed by his mother and discharged.

Craw, Nelson A. b. 1850. M. Sept. 19, 1864 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. E, 61 Mass. Vol. Dis. June 19, 1865 and died at Ware of consumption Apr. 30, 1866.

Crague, George G. b. 1842. M. Jan. 15, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Crocker, Charles. M. June, 1862. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol.

Crocker, Henry A. b. 1848. M. June 22, 1862. Musician in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. Died in Stanton, Va., June 21, 1864 from wounds received in action at Piedmont, Va., June 5.

Cummings, John W. b. 1830. M. Sept. 22, 1863. Corporal in Co. D, 34 Mass. Vol. Participated in the engagements of the Army of the Potomac in which his regiment took part. Severely wounded at Petersburg.

Cummings, Otis. b. 1841. M. Aug. 30, 1862. Private in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Killed in action at White Oak Church, Va., Dec. 11, 1862.

Cushman, Julius Augustus. b. 1821. M. June 21, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. A, 10 Mass. Vol. Wounded in right arm at Cold Harbor. E. at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and Wilderness.

Davis, George P. b. 1837. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 1 year. Captain in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Detailed as Provost Marshal General of Louisiana.

Davis, James, Jr. b. 1816. M. Jan. 29, 1862. Private in 6 Mass. Light Battery. Dis. Apr. 13, 1862 for disability.

Demond, Alpheus. b. 1843. M. Sept. 12, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. B, 44 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted July 20, 1864 for 100 days. Corporal in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol.

Demond, George H. b. 1840. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. He participated in nearly all the engagements of his regiment, notably those at Bisland, Port Hudson and the Red River Campaign.

Dempsey, James. b. 1840. M. Sept. 20, 1861. Private in Co. K, 27 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Dec. 24, 1863. Taken prisoner at South West Creek and confined in Libby prison for 3 weeks.

Denny, Francis J. b. 1843. M. July 31, 1862. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. Taken prisoner at New Market, Va., May 16, 1864, he was sent to Andersonville where he died Sept. 20 following.

Dick, Alexander. b. 1833. M. Sept. 20, 1861. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Dis. Feb. 6, 1863 for disability. E. at Roanoke Id., Newbern, Whitehall and Goldsboro.

Donnovan, Thomas. M. Sept. 1861. Private in Co. A, 18 Mass. Vol.

Dowd, Edward. M. Oct. 1861. Private in Co. D, 24 Mass. Vol.

Draper, George Lemuel. b. 1846. M. July 25, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. B, 5 Mass. Vol. Participated in the engagements of his regiment.

Dunbar, George F. b. 1844. M. Dec. 1, 1863. Private in Co. D, 1 Mass. Vol. Cavalry. Died in City Point, Va., Aug. 15, 1864 of typhoid fever.

Dunbar, James Lawrence. b. 1841. M. Aug. 30, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. E. at Fredericksburg, Mary's Heights, Mine Run, Wilderness, Gettysburg and Sailor's Creek where he was wounded in the arm, rendering amputation necessary.

Dunbar, John M. b. 1843. M. Aug. 30, 1862. Corporal in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Died at the Battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864.

Dunham, Washington S. b. 1841. M. July 20, 1864 for 100 days. Private in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. His duties, like that of his company, consisted of guarding prisoners.

Eastwood, Francis H. b. 1840. M. Sept. 6, 1861. Sergeant in Co. D, 22 Mass. Vol. E. at Fredericksburg, Gettys-



burg and Wilderness. Killed in action at Laurel Hill, Va., May 10, 1864.

Fairbanks, George E. b. 1839. M. Sept. 26, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in 1 N. H. Light Battery. E. at Rappahannock Station, Bull Run, Antietam, and others of his company.

Fairbanks, Luther M. b. 1841. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Fisherdict, James Sullivan. b. 1837. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Weakened by an attack of measles he died of consumption at New Orleans June 10, 1862.

Fisherdict, William Alfred. b. 1843. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864. Accidentally shot and killed at Centerville, La., Mar. 12, 1864.

Flaherty, John J. b. 1840. Enlisted at Palmer Sept. 20, 1861 as private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted on the quota of Ware Dec. 23, 1863. Taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff May 15, 1864, and confined in prison at Andersonville from which he was exchanged the following winter.

Fletcher, Charles. b. 1844. M. Aug. 8, 1862 for 3 yrs. Corporal in Co. D, 14 Conn. Vol. E. of the Army of Potomac in which his regiment participated. Voted certificate for meritorious service by Legislature of Conn.

Fletcher, Eugene. b. 1841. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Engagements at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Foster, Joseph Milton. b. 1841. M. Aug. 30, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Corporal Oct. 30, 1864. Dis. Oct. 14, 1865 for disability resulting from wounds. E. at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Petersburg and others.

French, Elmer H. b. 1837. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Feb. 20, 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted July 15, 1864 in Co. F, 42 Mass. Vol. for 100 days.

Gage, John M. M. Nov. 1861. Private in 6 Mass. Battery.

Gardner, Walter F. b. 1838. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Died at Baton Rouge, Nov. 5, 1863. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson.



Gaynor, Thomas H. M. Sept. 1861. Private in Co. K, 10 Mass. Vol.

Gibbs, John W. b. 1839. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Corporal in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson. Taken prisoner at a battle near Bynam's Mills, he was confined in prison at Camp Ford Tyler, Texas, for 83 days.

Gibbs, William H. b. 1842. Enlisted Dec. 28, 1863 in Co. M, 1 Mass. Vol. Calvary. Corporal June 1, 1865. E. of the Army of the Potomac in which his regiment participated.

Gilbert, Luther. b. 1818. M. Jan. 20, 1862. Private in 6 Battery, Mass. Light Artillery. Dis. Dec. 2, 1862 for disability.

Glynn, John. Enlisted at Pittsfield Dec. 8, 1861 for 3 yrs. as private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864 on the quota of Ware. Died at Ware May 25, 1865 while on a sick furlough. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Goodwin, George A. b. 1842. Enlisted 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. F, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted May, 1865 and promoted to rank of Corporal. E. in Red River Campaign.

Goodwin, Michael. b. 1810. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Sept. 23, 1863 for disability.

Gould, William B. b. 1822. M. Oct. 14, 1862 in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. for 9 mos. Dis. Nov. 18, 1862 for disability.

Graham, John. M. Aug. 1861. Private in Co. K, 10 Mass. Vol.

Green, George A. b. 1814. M. March 10, 1864. Corporal in Co. I, 57 Mass. Vol.

Green, Joseph Duff. b. 1840. M. May 25, 1861 for 3 yrs. Corporal in Co. G, 2 Mass. Vol. E. Bank's Retreat, Cedar Mt., Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

Greenleaf, John R. b. 1840. M. Oct. 30, 1862 for 9 mos. Hospital Steward in 46 Mass. Vol.

Grout, Horace V. B. b. 1835. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. His regiment was sent to Ship Island where Comrade Grout was taken ill and died Apr. 14, 1862.

Grundell, Sebastian. b. 1839. M. May 25, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Participated in the engagements of his regiment, also was with Gen. Sherman on his march to Atlanta.

Hall, Samuel A. b. 1833. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Corporal in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Detailed for pontoon service.

Hatstat, William F. b. 1843. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Dis. Apr. 1863 for disability. E. at Second Bull Run, Cedar Mt. and Antietam. Died at New Haven, Nov. 1864.

Hannum, Charles C. b. 1844. M. June 22, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. E. at Harper's Ferry, Lynchburg, Cedar Creek, Winchester and Petersburg.

Hastings, Henry C. b. 1835. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864. Participated in the engagements of his regiment.

Hastings, John Hunt. b. 1826. M. Oct. 15, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. H, 46 Mass. Vol. E. at Kingston, Whitehall, Goldsboro and Gum Swamp.

Hayes, Patrick. b. 1840. M. Oct. 26, 1861. Private in Co. K, 27 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted on the quota of Springfield, Dec. 23, 1863. Taken prisoner at South West Creek Mar. 8, 1865, and confined in Libby prison for about 3 weeks.

Hempton, Daniel. b. 1834. M. Sept. 7, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 24 Mass. Vol. E. at Roanoke Id., Kingston, Newbern and others of his regiment.

Hill, James Gilbert. b. 1841. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. First Sergeant in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted May 10, 1863 as First Lieutenant in 3 La. Engineers. Captain Sept. 12, 1863. E. at Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Hill, William Harrison. b. 1842. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Siege of Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Hitchcock, Henry M. b. 1843. M. May 22, 1862. Private in Co. D, 27 Mass. Vol. Dis. Oct. 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted Apr. 9, 1863 as private in Co. G, 2 Mass. Vol. Cavalry. Dis. Dec. 1863 for disability. Re-enlisted July 1864 as musician in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. for 100 days. E. at Roanoke Id. and Trenton.

Hitchcock, Newton E. b. 1835. Having entered the U. S. Navy in 1859 as Hospital Steward he was assigned to the South Atlantic Squadron. Transferred in 1862 to the U. S. Hospital and Store Ship *Vermont*. E. at Port Royal.

Holden, Daniel. b. 1819. M. Aug. 6, 1862. Captain in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. Dis. Nov. 8, 1862 for disability.

Holden, D. Otis. b. 1843. M. July 31, 1862 for 3 yrs.

Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. E. at Newmarket, Richmond and Petersburg. Wounded at Newmarket.

Hopkins, William S. B. b. 1836. Commissioned as Captain Nov. 20, 1861 in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Lieut.-Col. Dec. 24, 1862. Dis. Apr. 1864 on account of resignation from company. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign. Prior to muster was unanimously elected as Capt. of the Ware Company.

Howard, Ocran Hanks. b. 1838. Entered U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1857. Commissioned as 2nd. Lieut. in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. May 28, 1861. 1st. Lieut. Sept. 1861. Capt. Aug. 1862. Capt. in U. S. Signal Corps Sept. 1863. Dis. in 1866 with rank of Capt. and Brevet Lieut. Col. As signal officer he served on the staff of Generals Veile, Stevens, Grant, Sherman, McPherson, Howard and Sheridan. He rendered service in all the Confederate States except Texas.

Howard, Warren V. M. May, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol.

Howard, William Fay. b. 1845. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Mar. 10, 1864 in Co. I, 57 Mass. Vol. E. at Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. Taken prisoner in the last named engagement, he died at Danville, Va., Feb. 23, 1865.

Howe, John W. b. 1833. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Sergeant in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Detailed for duty in the Pontoon Bridge Corps, Dept. of the Gulf. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson.

Howland, Edward A. b. 1840. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 23, 1864. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Johnson, Emery W. b. 1844. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 23, 1864. Participated in the engagements of the Red River Campaign.

Keefe, Michael. b. 1844. M. Sept. 27, 1861. Private in Co. B, 8 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Dec. 1863. E. at Roanoke Id., Newbern and Fort Mason. Wounded in the head at Antietam.

Kendall, Ransom. b. 1831. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 23, 1864. Participated in every engagement of his regiment.



Kennedy, David. b. 1845. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Kenney, James. b. 1838. M. May 25, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. E. at Winchester, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

Kilmer, John. b. 1831. M. Sept. 20, 1861. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Dis. Aug. 26, 1863 for disability. E. at Roanoke Id., Newbern, Kingston and Goldsboro.

Knight, Alva A. b. 1835. Commissioned as First Lieutenant in 34 U. S. Colored Troops, Apr. 27, 1863. Captain Mar. 1865. E. at Fort Wagner, Siege of Charleston, and Olustee. Detached for duty as Quartermaster and as Judge Advocate.

Knight, Charles S. b. 1830. M. Oct. 13, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Detached for duty in the Pontoon Bridge Corps, Dept. of the Gulf.

Lamb, David P. b. 1843. M. Aug. 30, 1862. Private in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Dis. Feb. 8, 1865 for disability. Wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness which resulted in the loss of 3 fingers.

Lamberton, Charles T. b. 1840. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Sept. 26, 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted July 20, 1864 in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. for 100 days.

Lamberton, Henry C. b. 1837. M. July 21, 1862. Private in Co. H, 34 Mass. Vol. Dis. May 19, 1865 for disability resulting from wounds received at Stickney's Farm.

Lashua, John. b. 1844. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Lawton, Erastus P. b. 1847. M. July 20, 1864 for 100 days. Private in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. Term of service spent in guard duty.

Lawton, Joseph Wallingford. b. 1839. M. Sept. 20, 1861. First Sergeant in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Second Lieut. Feb. 13, 1862. Killed at Newbern, N. C., Mar. 14, 1862, being the only commissioned officer from Ware to fall in battle. Post 85, Dept. of Mass. Grand Army of the Republic, was named in his honor.

Lewis, William E. b. 1839. M. Aug. 30, 1862 for 3 yrs. First Sergeant in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Dis. June, 1865 with rank of Brevet 2nd. Lieut. E. at Fredericksburg,



Mary's Heights, Mine Run, Laurel Hill, Wilderness, North Anna, Gettysburg and Sailor's Creek.

Loud, Cyrus S. b. 1830. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Musician in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Mar. 1864 in Co. I, 4 Mass. Vol.

Maloney, Patrick. M. 1861. Served on U. S. Ship *Cumberland*. Drowned at sea.

Mahan, Robert L. b. 1834. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Participated in most of the engagements of his regiment.

Marsh, George S. b. 1842. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Dec. 1863 for disability resulting from wound through the face. E. at Bisland and Siege of Port Hudson.

McKenney, Michael. b. 1843. Enlisted at Palmer Sept. 20, 1861 as private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted on the quota of Ware, Dec. 23, 1863. Taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff May 14, 1864 and confined in prison at Andersonville. Sent to Parole Camp at Annapolis where he died Dec. 10, 1864.

McMahon, William. b. 1843. M. Sept. 12, 1861. Private in Co. D, 24 Mass. Vol. Dis. Mar. 23, 1863 for disability. E. at Roanoke Id., Newbern and Little Washington.

McMahon, Patrick. b. 1840. M. June 29, 1861 for 3 yrs. Corporal in Co. K, 5 Conn. Vol. Participated in all the engagements of his regiment.

McNary, Richard. b. 1842. M. Oct. 1, 1861. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Wounded and taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff, Va., May 15, 1864. Confined in Andersonville prison and died there Aug. 8, 1864.

Miller, Michael G. b. 1844. M. Feb. 16, 1865. Private in Co. E, 15 Conn. Vol. E. at Kingston.

Mott, Abner R. b. 1841. Enlisted at Greenwich Aug. 19, 1861 as private in Co. I, 21 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted on the quota of Ware Jan. 2, 1864. Second Lieutenant Sept. 7, 1864. First Lieutenant Oct. 12, 1864. E. at Roanoke Id., Newbern, Knoxville and others.

Mott, John F. b. 1817. M. Dec. 10, 1861. Corporal in 6 Mass. Light Battery. Dis. July, 1862 for disability resulting from injury received on voyage to Ship Island.

Mudgett, E. F. M. 1861. Private in 11 Mass.

Murdock, Alexander B. b. 1830. M. Sept. 20, 1861.

Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Mar. 2, 1864. Taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff May, 1864. Died at Andersonville Feb. 9, 1865.

O'Brien, Michael. b. 1836. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Dis. Dec. 10, 1862 for disability resulting from the loss of a leg in the engagement at Cedar Mt.

O'Connell, James. b. 1838. M. July 13, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol. Transferred to Vet. Reserve Corps in Feb. 1864.

Olds, Lewis C. b. 1842. M. Sept. 20, 1861. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. E. at Roanoke Id. and Newbern. Died in Washington Oct. 4, 1862.

Olney, James W. b. 1840. M. Aug. 5, 1861. Private in Co. H, 21 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Jan. 1, 1864. Transferred to Co. H, 36 Mass. Vol. and promoted to rank of Corporal. E. at Roanoke Id., Newbern and others in which his regiment participated.

Osborne, Clark J. b. 1836. M. Sept. 20, 1861. Corporal in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Sergeant Oct. 1862. Died at Florence, S. C., Jan. 1865 while prisoner of war. Participated in the engagements of his regiment. Made prisoner at Drury's Bluff, he was taken to Andersonville and later transferred to Florence.

O'Sullivan, Thomas. b. 1841. M. Sept. 7, 1861. Dis. Apr. 20, 1863 for disability. E. at Roanoke Id. and Newbern.

Osborne, Daniel L. b. 1828. M. Dec. 4, 1861. Private in Co. F, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. July, 1862 for disability.

Osborne, Henry Simeon. b. 1832. M. Aug. 11, 1862. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Dis. June, 1863 for disability. E. at Little Washington, Kingston and Goldsboro.

Parmenter, Charles. b. 1845. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 23, 1864. Participated in all the engagements of his regiment until July 1, 1864, when being home on furlough he did not rejoin his command and so became a deserter.

Phelps, John F. b. 1842. Commissioned Jan. 20, 1862 as First Lieut. of 6 Battery Mass. Light Artillery. Capt. Oct. 1863. E. at Baton Rouge, Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Pierce, Leverett. b. 1836. E. Sept. 9, 1862 for 3 yrs.

Private in 10 Battery Mass. Light Artillery Vol. Participated in all the engagements of his regiment.

Puffer, Emerson O. b. 1843. E. Oct. 11, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Sergeant Aug. 1, 1863. Engagements at Bisland and Siege of Port Hudson. Recruiting Officer at Boston.

Quevillon, John B. M. July, 1862. Private in Co. I, 34 Mass. Vol.

Raymond, Thomas E. b. 1838. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted as Corporal Feb. 1864. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Richards, Marshall N. b. 1840. M. Aug. 6, 1862. Private in Co. E, 1 Mass. Vol. Cavalry. Re-enlisted Dec. 1863. Participated in the engagements of his regiment in the Army of the Potomac.

Richardson, Alfred H. b. 1844. M. Sept. 3, 1861 for 9 mos. Private in Co. A, 46 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Aug. 1864 for 1 year. Corporal in Co. B, 61 Mass. Vol. Sergeant Mar. 1865. E. at Batchelor's Creek and Petersburg.

Richardson, Ebenezer C. b. 1820. Commissioned as surgeon in U. S. Vol. service and assigned to duty Apr. 26, 1863 as surgeon of Board of Enrollment for 9 Mass. District. Dis. June 15, 1865 at close of war.

Richardson, Edwin E. b. 1839. M. Sept. 25, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. A, 46 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted July 13, 1864 as Corporal in Co. A, 8 Mass. Vol. for 100 days. Detailed for picket duty at Newport Barracks and provost duty at Baltimore.

Robbins, Henry M. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol.

Robinson, John Wales. b. 1826. M. Oct. 14, 1862 for 9 mos. Private in Co. K, 42 Mass. Vol. Served as Hospital Steward.

Rogers, David D. b. 1833. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Corporal in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 24, 1864. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Rogers, Joseph J. b. 1838. M. Aug. 30, 1862. Private in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Killed at the Battle of the Wilderness May 6, 1864.

Ronan, Thomas. b. 1837. Enlisted at Chicopee Dec. 13, 1861. Sergeant in Co. G, 28 Mass. Vol. Killed in action at Gettysburg July 2, 1863.



Sagendorph, Edward. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol.

Sagendorph, Milton. b. 1839. Enlisted at Meriden, Conn., Apr. 22, 1861 for 3 mos. Private in 1 Conn. Vol. Re-enlisted on the quota of Ware Nov. 20, 1861. Corporal in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Subsequently made Sergeant and First Sergeant. Second Lieutenant Dec. 1862. First Lieutenant Aug. 1863. Captain Aug. 1864. Dis. Sept. 9, 1865 as Brevet Captain. E. at First Bull Run, Port Hudson, Red River Campaign.

Salie, Robert C. b. 1840. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Taken ill on his arrival at Ship Id., the disability continued and he was discharged June 18, 1862.

Saunders, Charles. b. 1831. Enlisted at Wilbraham Sept. 4, 1861 as private in Co. A, 18 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted on the quota of Ware Jan. 2, 1864. Died at Ware Mar. 14, 1864.

Sawin, Samuel H. M. Sept. 1861. Private in Co. H, 21 Mass. Vol.

Seamans, Charles. b. 1844. Enlisted in U. S. Navy June, 1861, for 3 yrs. Assigned to duty on Gun Boat *Cambridge*. Took part in the capture of a number of prizes.

Seamans, James O. b. 1836. Enlisted in U. S. Navy, May, 1861 and was assigned to duty on Flagship *Colorado*. Dis. July, 1862. Enlisted Aug. 15, 1864 as private in Co. F, 1 Battalion Mass. Heavy Artillery.

Simonds, Francis N. b. 1837. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864. E. at Port Hudson, Red River Campaign and Mobile.

Shaw, Theodore D. M. Aug. 1862. Private in Co. A, 37 Mass. Vol.

Smith, Royal Amos. b. 1831. M. Sept. 21, 1861. Private in Co. I, 27 Mass. Vol. Dis. June 10, 1862 for disability. E. at Roanoke Id. and Newbern.

Snell, William D. b. 1840. M. Aug. 5, 1861. Corporal in Co. H, 21 Mass. Vol. Died in service June 19, 1862. E. at Roanoke Id. and Newbern.

Snow, Charles. b. 1843. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Dis. Dec. 1862 for disability. Re-enlisted Sept. 21, 1864 in the 6 Mass. Light Battery. E. at Winchester, Cedar Mt., Rappahannock, South Mt. and Antietam.



Snow, George Warner. b. 1843. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 24, 1864 and was killed in action at Yellow Bayou, La., May 18, 1864. Participated in all the engagements of his regiment.

Spooner, Silas Anderson. b. 1837. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Corporal in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Aug. 1863 for disability. Re-enlisted July 20, 1864 in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol. for 100 days.

Stafford, Thomas. b. 1844. M. July 1, 1862. Private in Co. D, 14 Conn. Vol. Reported as "missing in action," and supposed to have been killed at Chancellorsville, Va., May 3, 1863.

Stearns, Charles F. b. 1837. M. Dec. 28, 1861. Musician in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Principal Musician June 30, 1862. Dis. Feb. 1864 for disability. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson.

Stearns, Francis D. b. 1839. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. in Aug. 1863 for disability.

Stevens, George Wilder. b. 1836. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dec. 22, 1863 transferred to U. S. Signal Corps in which he was made Sergeant. Engagements at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Stone, Joseph. b. 1839. M. May 25, 1861. Private in Co. E, 2 Mass. Vol. Died at Aquia Creek, Va., May 22, 1862.

Taylor, Dwight B. b. 1842. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Corporal in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Apr. 1862 for disability.

Thornton, Michael. b. 1843. M. Aug. 23, 1861. Private in Co. K, 21 Mass. Vol. Dis. Feb. 1863 for disability resulting from gun-shot wound received at Fredericksburg.

Tierney, Daniel. M. July, 1862. Private in 34 Mass. Vol.

Tisdale, Charles E. b. 1842. M. July 31, 1862. Corporal in Co. H, 34 Mass. Vol. Dis. Jan. 8, 1863 for disability.

Tisdale, Estes F. b. 1834. M. Aug. 30, 1862 for 3 yrs. Corporal in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Participated in all the engagements of his regiment.

Tisdale, James W. b. 1818. M. Aug. 30, 1862. Private in Co. F, 37 Mass. Vol. Dis. at Alexandria, Va., July 12, 1863 for disability and died within a few days. E. at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

Towne, Dennis. b. 1826. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson. Detailed for 6 mos. duty in Battery F, 1 U. S.

Artillery, and participated in campaign of 1864 in the Gulf Department.

Towne, William A. b. 1842. M. Mar. 31, 1864. Private in Co. L, 4 Mass. Vol. Cavalry. Detailed as member of the regimental band, and stationed at the head-quarters of the Army of the James.

Turner, Hollis. b. 1829. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Sergeant in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Walker, Henry. b. 1818. M. Nov. 25, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Transferred Apr. 1864 to Veteran Reserve Corps. E. at Bisland and Port Hudson, subsequent to which he became incapacitated for further field service.

Warburton, Aram. b. 1845. E. July 12, 1864 for 100 days. Musician in Co. F, 60 Mass. Vol.

Warburton, Ezra. b. 1842. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Mar. 20, 1863 for disability. Detailed for guard and garrison duty.

Warburton, Hiram. b. 1840. M. Sept. 9, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in 10 Mass. Artillery Vol. E. at Auburn, Mine Run, North Anna, Petersburg and others.

Wetherell, Henry L. b. 1847. M. Aug. 29, 1864. Private in Marine Service at Charlestown, Mass. Granted a special discharge in Sept. 1866 on account of enlisting as a minor. Served on *Circassian* and *Kearsarge*.

White, Alonzo. M. Sept. 1861. Private in Co. H, 21 Mass. Vol.

Wilcox, Hiram A. b. 1831. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. June, 1862 for disability. Died at Ware Nov. 11, 1864.

Wilcox, Chauncey C. b. 1848. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Youngest soldier to enlist from Ware. Spent first year of service as Captain's orderly. Served as musician and later performed the whole duty of a soldier in the ranks. Re-enlisted Feb. 1864.

Wilcox, J. Hiler. b. 1841. M. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. E. at Bisland, Port Hudson and Red River Campaign.

Winslow, Jasper Albert. b. 1842. M. July, 1862 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. C, 16 Conn. Vol. Died of yellow fever at Newbern, Oct. 14, 1864.

Wilder, Wales Tileston. b. 1825. M. July 21, 1862 Private in Co. E, 36 Mass. Vol. Dis. as Corporal June, 1865

E. at Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Petersburg and others of his regiment.

Witherow, William. b. 1845. E. Nov. 20, 1861 for 3 yrs. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Re-enlisted Feb. 23, 1864 and promoted to rank of Corporal. Died at Ware, April 8, 1865 from wounds received at Sabine Cross Roads.

Wotton, Wallace M. b. 1841. M. July 25, 1864 for 100 days. Sergeant in Co. B, 5 Mass. Vol.

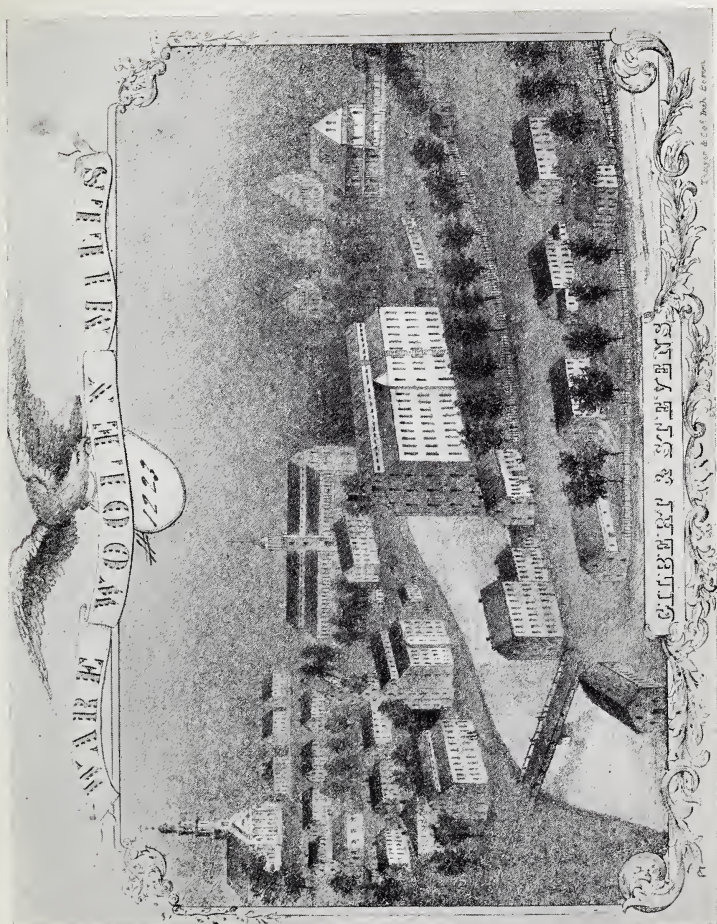
Woodis, John. b. 1820. M. Nov. 20, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Detailed as nurse in the Regimental Hospital. Dis. June 18, 1862 for disability, and died soon after in New Orleans.

Woodward, Charles E. b. 1834. M. Dec. 2, 1861. Private in Co. D, 31 Mass. Vol. Dis. Nov. 23, 1863 for disability. E. at Bisland and Siege of Port Hudson.

Wright, Willard E. Private in Co. C, 52 Mass. Vol.









## XI

### MISCELLANEOUS TOWN SUBJECTS

#### MANUFACTURES

THE value of the water-power afforded by the Ware River was recognized at an early date, the river dropping seventy feet in less than a quarter of a mile; but with the exception of saw and grist mills already described, there was no utilization of the power until after 1813, when Alpheus Demond and Col. Thomas Denny purchased the Magoon property, consisting of some 400 acres of land, for \$4,500. They built a new dam above where the lower stone bridge now stands, repaired the saw-mill and grist-mill, started two carding machines, and a small plant for making machinery. The machine shop stood just above the bridge on the north side of the river. The carders were intended to supply merely a local need. Colonel Denny died in 1814, and the business was not pushed.

Early in the year 1821 the entire property was purchased by Holbrook and Dexter of Boston for \$15,000, and a company formed in which a number of wealthy and influential Boston men were interested. In 1823 the Ware Manufacturing Co. was incorporated with a capital of \$600,000. Gardner Green was president. John Tappan, Samuel Hubbard and S. V. S. Wilder were among the directors. The company at once erected a woollen mill on the south side of the river, a part of which is still standing, by far the oldest of the factory buildings in Ware.

In 1824 the Company branched out and built a large mill, 271 feet long, a little farther up the river, taking its power from the upper falls. Great expense was involved in making the water-power available, as a large amount of excavation through the solid rock was necessary, and the Company failed within a few years.

In the "Gazetteer of Massachusetts" published in 1828



by Jeremiah Spofford there are several notes of interest. The Ware River is spoken of as "a large and powerful stream." The manufacturing industry is described as follows: "An immense change has been made at the falls in the town within a short period, by which a desolate wilderness has been changed into a populous village. . . . The Ware Manufacturing Co. employs 450 hands, . . . consumes 850 bales of cotton and 300 bales of sheep's wool annually, from which are made 850,000 yds. of cotton cloth, and 300,000 yds. of coarse woollens, mostly adapted to the use of the negroes of the southern states and West Indies. . . . The population of the village exceeds 1,400, being more than that of the whole town of the last census."

In 1829 the Hampshire Manufacturing Co. was incorporated with a capital of \$400,000, purchasing the entire property of the old company. The plant was somewhat enlarged in 1836. In 1837 however came the great financial crash, and the Company went under.<sup>1</sup>

Barber's Historical Collections, published in 1839, give the following statistics of the Hampshire Manufacturing Co. for the year 1837. Two cotton mills, with 6,544 spindles. Raw cotton consumed, 516,000 pounds. Cloth manufactured, 1,450,000 yards, valued at \$160,000. Males employed, 62; females, 200. Two woollen mills with eleven sets of machinery. Wool consumed, 276,000 pounds, from which 230,000 yards of cloth were made, valued at \$280,000. In the woollen mills were employed 77 males and 80 females.

In 1839 the Otis Company<sup>2</sup> was organized and purchased that part of the property of the Hampshire Manufacturing Co. which lies north of the river. The large one-story mill built by the Ware Co. in 1824 was burned in 1845, whereupon the Company erected on the same site the large five-story brick mill known as No. 2. At the same time the stone mill was erected of stone quarried on the Coney farm in the edge of West Brookfield. As Gilbert and Stevens at about the same time added largely to their plant, manu-

<sup>1</sup> Among the assets of the company were a number of pews in the East Meeting-house, evidently representing the value of the land on which the church stands. William Hyde bought the whole lot in 1839 for \$750.

<sup>2</sup> One of the original incorporators was James W. Otis, from whom the company derived its name.



facturing on a large scale in Ware dates from this period. Then it was that a radical change came over the population of our town. Hitherto the comparatively small factories had been manned almost wholly by people of native American birth, gathered from the outlying farms. Now began an influx of foreigners in such numbers that a healthy assimilation of them was impossible, coming as they did with different social and political ideas. As a result the moral and social condition inevitably suffered. There is much evidence to show that the town was at a low ebb morally during the years following immediately after 1850. At the town meeting in March, 1851, it was deemed necessary to appoint a Committee of Law and Order of twenty members. The list includes the names of the foremost citizens of the town. At the annual meeting the following year the selectmen were instructed not to license immoral exhibitions, "nor let the use of the town hall on Saturday or Sunday evenings for any purposes that are contrary to law." William C. Greene, Esq., settled in town in 1853, and acted as local magistrate for a number of years, dealing out justice in what he called "an unique town." He says that at that time the foreigners were coming in, holding the idea that they were entering a land of absolute freedom "in mind, matter, body, soul, spirit, inclination and appetite." It is certainly to the credit of the town that readjustment on a high plane was speedily effected.

In 1856-57 the old mills in the Otis Company's lower yard were removed, and a new six-story mill, 250 feet long, was built. This was again enlarged ten years later by a 75 foot addition.

In 1865 it was decided to change the product of No. 3 Mill from woven to knit goods, and a colony of people was brought over from Nottingham, England, for that purpose. In the beginning the major part of the product was stockings; this gradually changed however. In 1890 the making of stockings was discontinued, and since then the product has been wholly shirts and drawers.

On Aug. 10, 1880 the town was thrown into consternation by the fact that No. 3 Mill was on fire. Before they were checked the flames had burned off the entire roof, causing

a loss of \$88,550 to building and machinery. The damage was repaired as speedily as possible. In 1887 No. 4 Mill was erected, and other improvements were made in the plant.

A few further notes are of interest.

In the season of 1849-50 about 3,000 gallons of whale oil were consumed for lighting the mills.

In 1864, at the close of the war, the Company paid \$1.85 per pound for cotton, the highest price ever paid.

Assessors' valuation of the Company's property in 1842, \$43,793. Valuation in 1910, \$1,120,050.

January, 1840, number of names on the pay roll, 211. Pay roll for the month, \$2,665. In January, 1911, there were 1,875 hands with a monthly pay roll of \$62,000.

Production in 1840, 744,465 yards. In 1910, 16,000,000 yards of cloth, and 360,000 dozens underwear.

Like all others, the Company originally paid its employees semi-annually, and the help lived on credit from the Company's store. The first store was where the library now stands. Later the store was in the building now used as a counting-room.

Abstract from letter from the treasurer of the Otis Company to Mr. Henry Lyon, resident agent, Dec. 28, 1842:

We find that most, if not all, of your neighboring manufacturers pay but quarterly, and if you once commence paying monthly you will be obliged to continue to do so, as you cannot alter back, and quarterly payments seem to us reasonable, and often enough. — We supposed when we altered from half yearly to 3 mos. that it would have been satisfactory to the operatives and if they now require monthly payments they will soon want weekly, and on the whole we all think you had better continue to make up your payroll and pay off your operatives once a quarter (as at present).

In 1841 Messrs. George H. Gilbert and Charles A. Stevens purchased that part of the Hampshire Manufacturing Company's property that was situated on the south bank of the river for \$25,000, and formed the partnership of Gilbert & Stevens. Mr. Gilbert was born in Brooklyn, Connecticut, in 1806. At an early age he went to Pomfret, Connecticut, then to Sutton, then to Worcester, Massachu-

setts, where he gained a thorough knowledge of the business of a machinist. In 1832 he removed to North Andover, whence he came to Ware.

Mr. Stevens was born in North Andover in 1816, and from a boy was connected with the woollen business.

Gilbert & Stevens at first manufactured broadcloth and cloakings. Two years later they ceased making these goods and began the manufacture of fine flannels. The business increased rapidly, and in 1846 the "Granite Mill" below the bridge was constructed of stone from the Coney quarries.

In 1846 John Brown, the famous abolitionist, was a wool dealer in Springfield, Massachusetts, under the firm name of Perkins & Brown, and in the office of the Gilbert Co. hangs a framed bill of a lot of wool sold by them to Gilbert & Stevens.

So successful were Gilbert & Stevens in the manufacture of flannels that their goods were awarded the highest prize — a gold medal — at the Great Exhibition in Crystal Palace, London, in 1851.

In that same year the firm was dissolved and the property divided. Mr. Gilbert took the new lower mill, while Mr. Stevens received the old "Ware Woollen Mill."

In 1857 Mr. Gilbert gave his nephew Mr. Lewis N. Gilbert an interest in the business, and the firm became George H. Gilbert & Co. In 1860 the firm purchased land in Hardwick upon which the village of Gilbertville has grown up. On account of the increasing size of the business it was decided in 1868 to incorporate the same, and the firm became "The George H. Gilbert Manufacturing Co." with a capital of \$250,000. The capital was increased to \$600,000 in 1883, and to \$1,000,000 in 1886. Mr. George H. Gilbert died in the spring of 1869.

In September, 1851, the employees numbered 72, and the monthly pay roll was \$1,043. In January, 1911 (Gilbertville included), the employees numbered 1,594, and the monthly pay roll was \$61,000.

In 1851 120,000 lbs. wool in the grease were consumed, and in 1910 6,900,000 lbs.

The present product consists entirely of woollens and worsteds for men's wear.



After the dissolution of the firm of Gilbert & Stevens in 1851, Mr. Stevens continued the manufacture of fine flannels. He enlarged the old mill and in 1870 put up a new building. Mr. Stevens's son, Mr. Charles E. Stevens was taken into partnership in 1872 and has carried on the business since the death of the senior member of the firm, April 5, 1892. The product of the mill is entirely white goods, — flannels and broadcloths. About 250 hands are employed and the monthly pay roll is \$6,000.

An important industry of the village in former times was the manufacture of straw goods, which was commenced in 1832 by John B. Fairbank, and was afterward carried on by Avery Clark, Lorenzo Demond, C. E. and H. S. Blood, and others.

Clark's shop, which employed a large number of girls, stood in the open lot east of the Sandford house. The building was afterwards moved, and now stands below the bridge on the north side of the river. Blood's shop stood on the east side of South Street near Charles. Besides the work done in the shops, straw-sewing was done largely in the homes about town. Barber's Historical Collections, published in 1839, gives the following statistics for the year 1837:

Straw bonnets manufactured, 85,000, valued at \$114,832. Palm-leaf hats, 79,000, valued at \$10,870.

Boots and shoes were made in Ware in considerable quantities. The figures for 1837 give 867 pairs of boots and 61,623 pairs of shoes, valued at \$53,164. Manufacturing was mainly carried on in small shops, and at benches set up in the various homes where men could make use of their leisure time. A small manufacturing establishment was run by Mayo & Freeman, who kept a store in connection with it. Another firm was that of Guild & Lamb, who did not, however, continue long in the business. About 1875 a number of business men contributed enough to enable a man named Utley to establish a factory. About \$4,000 was invested in machinery, but within a year the establishment burned. The last of the old shops was owned by George Eddy and stood on Eddy Hill. One of Mr. Eddy's



specialties was a shoe intended for wear in powder-factories, being constructed entirely without metal.

The J. T. Wood Co., which came to Ware from West Brookfield in 1896, makes a specialty of the manufacture of high-cut shoes for men. At the present time they employ about 100 hands, and their daily output is from 500 to 600 pairs of shoes.

### SNELL'S AUGERS

The one unique business of a former generation was the manufacture of augers. Thomas Snell, son of Polycarpus Snell, removed to Ware from Bridgewater about 1790. He acquired a farm of 135 acres in the Flat Brook Valley, but his special business was blacksmithing. It is claimed that he was the first to manufacture twisted augers in America, and the first to make "bight" augers in any country. He was at any rate a mechanical genius, and undoubtedly originated his own method of manufacture. It is related on the authority of his son, Deacon Thomas Snell, Jr., that he made augers in Ware soon after 1790. These early augers were made of iron with just enough steel welded to the end to make the cutting part. They were called steel-cut augers. The shank was long and left in the rough and the implement was known as a "tanged" auger.

Thomas Snell, Sen., and Susanna his wife had a large family. Seventeen children were born to them, the first in 1792, the last in 1819. Among them were Thomas, Jr., born in 1798, and Melville, born in 1804. It was probably not until these two were grown that the business assumed very considerable proportions. The shops were located on Flat Brook about a mile above the meeting-house, and at their best employed twenty men. The augers were taken to Boston to be sold, a load of steel, iron and supplies being brought back in exchange. The value of the augers is given by Barber as \$4,500 in 1837. In 1839 Melville Snell, son of Thomas, Sen., went to Providence where he made bits a couple of years, after which he removed to Sturbridge. Otis and Lucius, sons of Thomas, Jr., followed their uncle to Sturbridge in 1844 and 1850 respectively. Deacon Thomas

carried on the business at the lower shop in Ware for a few years, when, about 1854, he too removed to Sturbridge, and the business of making augers in Ware came to an end.

Thomas, Sen., besides general blacksmithing and auger making, ran a grist-mill on the brook. Toll for grinding was two quarts per bushel for corn, and three for rye and wheat.

The Snells were famed for their musical ability. All were singers, and several played musical instruments. Deacon Thomas Snell served two terms in the Legislature, in 1838 and 1839.

### THE OLD STONE MILL

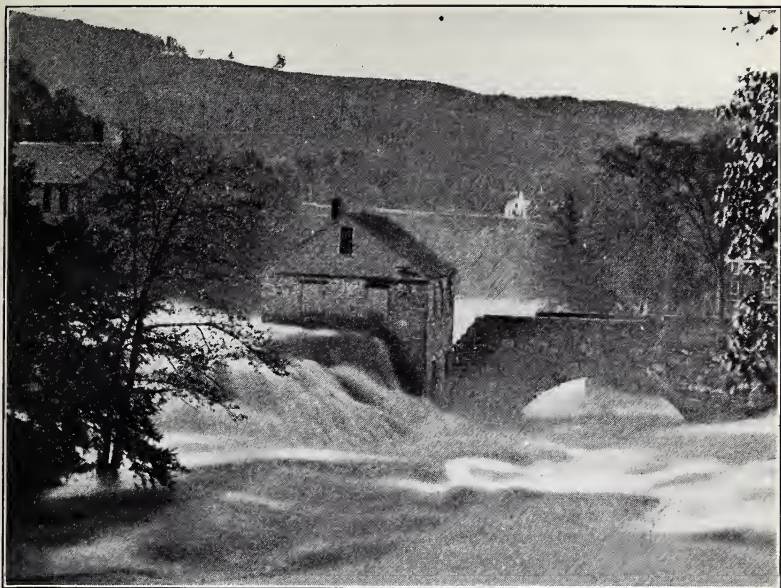
A stone grist-mill stood for many years on the east bank of Ware River near the end of the upper stone bridge. No records have been found throwing light on the date of its construction, but it is remembered as being, in the sixties, already an old building. Very likely it was built to replace the Magoon Mill which stood at the Stevens dam soon after the Ware Manufacturing Company came into existence. In 1850 the Otis Company leased to Lydia E. Peters of Ware, widow-woman,

a certain parcel of land situated on the easterly side of Ware river and northerly side of the highway leading from s<sup>d</sup> Ware to West Brookfield upon which now stands a certain stone grist mill belonging to s<sup>d</sup> Lydia, together with the privilege of using the surplus water not wanted by said Otis Co., the same being at all times subject to & under the control of s<sup>d</sup> Company: To have and to hold for the term of nineteen years, . . . yielding and paying therefore the sum of one dollar for each and every year during said term,

provision being made for annulling the lease. Soon after this the Widow Peters conveyed her rights to Jason Gorham of Barre, who in 1853 sold to George C. Jennison and Samuel Morse of Ware. Jennison conveyed his interest in 1855 to Beaman B. Sibley and Rensalaer Topliff. Samuel Morse disposed of his interest to Ansel Ross, who in turn sold to Sibley & Topliff. In the same year, 1855, Sibley & Topliff conveyed their interest to William S. Knight, who within a month transferred the property and rights to the











Otis Company. The mill was operated until it was wrecked by the spring freshet of 1869, which also destroyed the old stone bridge.

### SCHOOLS

The first action taken by the Parish in regard to schools appears in the records under date of 1757, when it was

Voted to Devid ye Peraish into two parts for a scool, and flat Brook to be ye deviding Line.

Voted Joseph Scott to take care of the West part. Voted William Brackenridge to take care of the East Part.

There is no record of money being raised for schooling until after the incorporation as a District in 1761. In 1762 it was

Voted to devid the District into four Quarters, et & wt, Beginning South of Benjamin Griffin's Hous, to the meten Hous, from there to Mr. Rutherford's Barn, from there to Ebenizar Gilbrt's Barn, and So N. & S't by flat Brook. Voted to Rais twelve pounds for Schooling. Voted that Eatch Quarter Shal Shool out there part within the year or be forfit.

The same sum was granted the next year. In 1771 the amount was reduced to four pounds, to be increased in 1772 to fourteen pounds. In 1774 the sum of fifteen pounds was raised. Then came the Revolutionary War, and no further grants for education until 1782, when twenty pounds was raised, the districts remaining as formerly. In this year it was proposed that a schoolhouse be placed near the meeting house, but the proposal did not materialize until 1786. At the March meeting of the latter year it was voted to build six schoolhouses, for which purpose seventy-two pounds was appropriated, and three men chosen "for each schoolhouse quarter," Jonathan Marsh, Samuel Densmore, Moses Brown, for Mr. Densmore's quarter. This was the north-east corner of the town. Jonathan Foster, Simeon Cummings, James Brakenridge, for Dr. Demmon's quarter. This was the middle section of the northern half of the town. Samuel Cleland, Abraham Thayer, Isaac Pepper, north-west

quarter. John Quinton, Lieut. Bullen, James Lammon, southwest quarter. Lieut. Cummings, Joseph Cummings, Samuel Brown, south-east quarter. Ebenezer Nye, John Adams, William Page, for the middle quarter. It was further voted that 2s. 8d. per day should be paid to common hands, and 3s. per day for carpenters, and that "if any refuse to work out their tax, that the Bills shall be committed to the Constable."

It was ordered that the schoolhouses be completed by the first of the following November.

So decided a step forward at a period of extreme poverty is difficult to account for, unless by the influence exerted by the Rev. Jeremiah Hallock, who preached in Ware the preceding summer, and whose influence on the town was very marked.

That the schoolhouses were not built as speedily as was expected is evident from a vote of the following year, 1787. In that year, besides £30 for schooling, £36 was voted "to build the schoolhouses," and the committee of the previous year reappointed. Again in 1791 the town voted £36 for schooling and £12 to build a schoolhouse by the meeting-house, Deacon Wm. Paige, George Breakenridge and Deacon Daniel Gould being appointed a committee for the work. This time we may be sure the building was erected, for in 1792-93 the selectmen's records, which began in 1789, show that Deacon Gould and Deacon Paige drew £4.,16 each, and Mr. Breakenridge £4.,10; this besides the payments to the regular committee on schooling. An interesting entry of 1784 is this: "Voted to allow Mr. Samuel Clark an order for £1.,17.,6 for his keeping school." Another of 1793: "To Erasmus Shumway for keeping school £4."

The year 1794 marks another step forward. The Rev. Reuben Moss had become minister of the parish in 1792, and his interest in education was beginning to show salutary results. Mr. Moss left a reputation for efficiency along educational lines, the result of which was far-reaching. He gave much effort to preparing young men for the work of teaching, both in this and in neighboring towns. No town in this vicinity, it is said, furnished so many teachers. Moral and educational standards were greatly raised as



the result of his labors. Hon. Joseph Cummings taught seven winters in New Braintree, receiving \$20 per month, being much more than was usually paid in those times.

One of Mr. Moss's methods was to assemble the different schools yearly in the meeting-house for a public competition in reading, spelling and the Shorter Catechism, honorable mention being the prize for greatest efficiency.

Two quaintly worded certificates have been preserved as heirlooms:

Ware, Aug. 11th, 1803.

This may certify that Miss Abigail Gould appears to have acquired *Learning* sufficient to render her capable of teaching children the rudiments of Spelling, reading, grammar, and decent behavior.

Reuben Moss, A.M.

Ware, May 20, 1805.

This may certify that Miss Abigail Gould appears to be an amiable, modest young Lady, and as far as I know, sustains a fair character.

Reuben Moss, V.D.M.

The usual wages for teaching ranged, in the early years, from four dollars a month to eight dollars for female teachers, and from ten dollars a month upwards for men.

The teachers invariably "boarded around," dividing their time among the various families according to the number of children of school age in each.

In a district where there were few families with many children the teacher would stay several weeks in the same house, but where families were small his moves were frequent. The assistance given to the children during the long evenings was often, where the teacher was devoted to his work, of even more value than that rendered during school hours, and the teacher won a hearty welcome by such helpfulness.

The whole custom of "boarding around" went out about 1850.

Meanwhile, though a schoolhouse was placed at the Centre, the others voted in 1786-87 hung fire. In 1797 it was voted to build the proposed schoolhouses agreeable

to the report of the former committee. A committee was also appointed to determine where they should stand. Later in the year another committee was appointed to decide how large it would be necessary to build them. At an adjourned meeting on May 8, £20 each was voted for these schoolhouses, and a committee consisting of Deacon Daniel Gould, George Thrasher and John Shaw was appointed to superintend the work of construction.

In 1800 \$266.67 was voted for the support of schools. The amount was advanced to \$320 in 1805, and the same year it was voted to re-district the town into eight districts, an act that threw the town into confusion for years. Schoolhouses had to be relocated, and in some instances were moved bodily. Men petitioned to be set off from one district and annexed to another, and then to be set back again. In one instance two districts joined together, provided themselves with three schoolhouses, and proceeded to hold sessions a third of the time in each.

Meanwhile Mr. Moss was making his salutary influence felt on the school work, and in 1807 the town voted "that the school-committee take into consideration the communication made by Rev. Mr. Moss, and recommend to the several districts such books as they shall think proper to be used in our schools."

In 1814 the school appropriation was advanced to \$400; in 1825 to \$600; in 1830 to \$790; in 1835 to \$800; in 1836 to \$1,000, divided as follows: District No. 1 to have \$500. Districts No. 2-9, \$60 each. District No. 10, \$100.

In 1839 the appropriation was \$1,250 with an additional grant of \$80 from the State. In 1841 the appropriation drops to \$1,000, and in 1843 was increased to \$1,100.

The number of school districts varied at different periods according to the need. For some years previous to 1847 the town was divided into ten districts, but in that year District No. 8 was abolished at its own request, reducing the number to nine. The old No. 8 comprised that portion of the town just north of the French cemetery.

Not far from the year 1820 the first "Select School for Young Ladies" was opened in Ware, and was taught by Miss Caroline Dutch of Utica, New York. Miss Dutch was

a relative of Deacon Eli Snow's family. She taught writing in fancy styles, and ornamental work of some sorts, such as were considered accomplishments at that time. She also introduced "Cumming's Geography" with an atlas. But above all she gave careful training in "deportment."

In all the schools pupils were required to "make their manners," the boys to bow and the girls to curtsy to their teachers as they came forward to recite, and also when leaving the schoolroom at the end of the session.

Up to the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century the Shorter Catechism was taught regularly in the schools, but times were changing. "The Catechism had to be dropped when a few carping spirits who were offended for other reasons raised a cry of sectarianism; and teachers began to make more of science than of morals."<sup>1</sup>

Up to the year 1844 the school affairs of the whole town were settled in town meeting. In that year there was a change, each district being permitted to choose its own prudential committee. From this time a considerable degree of independence was permitted to the districts, the several committees being authorized to select teachers and contract with them, an arrangement that did not give the best results in the quality of schooling supplied. The town, however, elected a "Superintending Committee of Schools," consisting of three members, whose oversight was of great value. Each district built and owned the schoolhouses within its limits, raising all moneys except for "schooling" independently. There was almost a complete district autonomy. The independent district system lasted many years, though the question of abolishing it was continually argued both in and out of town meeting. Not until 1869 was the vote passed by which the town as a whole assumed ownership of all property, and charge of all the schools, an act which created dissatisfaction in many quarters and called forth petitions for a return to the old system. The vote of 1869 was regarded as virtually abolishing the districts.

In 1847 \$1,600 was appropriated for schools, to be divided equally among seventeen schools, allowing eight schools to District No. 1.

<sup>1</sup> From a MS. of Miss Cornelia Gould.



About this time a movement toward a more advanced institution of learning was set on foot. The records are at first sight somewhat confusing, but become clear when we realize that the terms "Grammar School" and "High School" were used interchangeably for some years.

The first move was in 1846, when the Committee appointed to build a Town Hall was authorized to construct in the second story (the basement counted as the first story) a room for a Grammar School. Though the hall and school-room were completed the following year, no provision for a public school was made. In 1848 it was

Voted to instruct the Select Men and School Committee to give the use of the Grammar School Room to some individuals who may wish to establish a High School, and who they shall judge a suitable person for such a school.

In 1849 it was voted to establish a Grammar School. Also voted to raise \$2,000 for the support of schools, District No. 1 to receive \$1,100, No. 9 \$200, and each of the other districts \$100. The will of the town does not seem, however, to have been carried out that year, and in 1850 a more explicit vote was passed: "That the Town School Committee be authorized to establish a Grammar School in the town school room in the village on or near the first of September next." At the same time \$2,000 was appropriated for schools with an additional \$300 for the Grammar School. The following year an appropriation of \$600 was made "to support the Town High School for the year ensuing." In 1852 it was "Voted that the School Committee be instructed to hold one term of the Grammar School<sup>1</sup> in the centre of the town during the year," — a custom followed for several years.

The history of the beginnings of advanced education has been given in detail that the present generation may realize in some degree the development that took place during the last half of the nineteenth century.

It would be difficult to determine the date of building the first schoolhouse in the village. The earliest recollections

<sup>1</sup> Here and in other places it is "Grammar School" in the text of the records, and "High School" in the margin.

tell of the "Old Red Schoolhouse" standing on the site of the North Street school. Contemporary with it was the "Old White Schoolhouse" which stood at the corner of Chestnut and Maple Streets on the lot where the Orrin Sage house now stands. When Avery Clark bought the land the schoolhouse was moved across Chestnut Street, a little further south, there occupied until some time after the building of the first brick schoolhouse on South Street in 1865.

In 1847 the village district purchased of D. P. Billings for \$350 a lot on Third Street, afterwards named High Street, on which a two-room building was erected by the district. This was the present High Street building, though at a later date, in 1869, it was doubled in size by the addition of a second story.<sup>1</sup> In 1849 there were six schools in District No. 1, with two sessions of three months each. A third term was added this year. The average attendance was 134. As the schoolhouses provided but four rooms, other accommodations were hired by the committee. The report of 1858 shows a total of 489 pupils attending school in the district.

The building of the South Street school at a cost of about \$13,000 was the last important undertaking before the abolishing of the districts in 1869.

The handsome and commodious High School building on Church Street was erected in 1893.

The new South Street building was constructed in 1901.

### THE LIBRARY

The first library in our town dates from 1796.<sup>2</sup> On September 5 of that year "The Subscribers for a Librarian Society" met at the schoolhouse near the meeting-house. They chose Rev. Reuben Moss chairman and Isaac Pepper clerk, and appointed these two men, with Daniel Gould, a committee "to draw up articles of rules and regulations for said society." One dollar was contributed by each subscriber for the purchase of books.

<sup>1</sup> This addition provided accommodations for the High School, which was kept here for twenty years.

<sup>2</sup> The Proprietors' Record Book, just brought to light, furnishes authentic information concerning this interesting matter.

In November Rev. Mr. Moss was chosen librarian, and about fifty volumes were purchased. Sermons, histories, and philosophical essays predominated. The fiction was represented by "The Mysteries of Udolpho," "Pilgrim's Progress" and "The Hermit."

Among the regulations we find the following:

In order that the property of the Society may be preserved the following fines shall be imposed in case of delinquency whilst a book is in the possession of any proprietor. For every leaf that appears to have been turned down, three cents. For every drop of grease from a candle, lamp or any other way, from six to twenty-five cents at the estimation of the Librarian or the committee of inspection. For effacing a book with dirty hands or any other way, from eight to twenty-five cents. For tearing a leaf or injuring the cover not less than five cents, and as much more as the Librarian or the committee of inspection shall determine.

Books could be drawn any day except Sunday.

The Society continued, and its members attended to details of business, up to 1808. Meetings were held at the schoolhouse, at Joshua Crowell's tavern, or at private houses. Occasional assessments of from 25 to 37½ cents were made, and new books were added to the collection. The matter of fines was carefully looked after.

Voted to remit one-half of Stephen Pepper's fine (viz) Seven cents. Voted to remit Wm. Patrick's fine if he pay eleven cents. Voted to remit one-half of Doc. King's fine if he pay twelve cents.

In January, 1808, the number of proprietors was 47. In this year the Society was incorporated in accordance with an act of the Legislature, and a Constitution and By-laws were adopted. The name was changed to "The Proprietors of the Social Library in the Town of Ware." The twelfth article of the Constitution provided that when the common stock should amount to a certain number of volumes (number not yet determined upon), the citizens at large should have access to the library on condition of a small payment. An interesting item of the by-laws provided that new books should



be put up at public vendue "to see who will bid and pay upon the spot most for the first, second, third, etc. reading." Bids are thereafter recorded of from one to six cents for such privileges. In 1812 the premium for a first reading was as high as twenty-four cents.

The library flourished for many years, and the names of the best citizens of the town are recorded as officers and proprietors. Suddenly, without any apparent warning, the whole thing comes to an end. On Dec. 30, 1822, a legal meeting of the Society was held. Wm. Bowdoin was moderator, Leonard Gould clerk, Eli Snow librarian, James Breakenridge, Jr., collector, John Gardner treasurer, Amasa Anderson, Wm. Bowdoin and Rev. Samuel Ware standing committee. It was voted that the tax of 50 cents levied at the last annual meeting "be disannulled," and that the books of the Society be sold at auction, the proceeds to be divided among the several shareholders. Here the records come to an end.

Two years later, when manufacturing first began in Ware Village in 1824, the "Mechanics' and Manufacturers' Library" was organized, and with a good collection of books was maintained for many years. The books were moved from place to place, and interest in the library fluctuated. In 1844 it was unanimously voted "that the library is in a deplorable condition." It was somewhat revived by S. J. Wethrell in 1850, and again in 1853 by A. L. Devens, the agent of the Manufacturing Co. In 1861 the Proprietors placed the books in the care of the "Ware Natural History Society," where they remained for ten years. On March 30, 1871, "The Young Men's Debating Society" was organized with twenty-one members, the avowed object being self-culture, as stated in the Constitution. Meetings were held once a week, the exercises consisting of debates, orations, parliamentary practice and the reading of papers by members of the club. A room was secured in Sandford's Block and effort was put forth to make the meetings profitable.

In the fall of 1871 it was determined to open a public reading-room. This was hardly in successful operation before it was decided to add a library. The sum of \$300 was raised among the business men of the town, and the remnant

of the old library — about 400 volumes — was placed in the charge of the Debating Society. The library was opened to the public on Feb. 28, 1872, with 700 volumes. An annual fee of two dollars was charged for the privilege of taking books. This arrangement not working well, it was determined to apply for a special act of incorporation which should allow the town, on condition that the library be made free to all the inhabitants, to appropriate money for its support, while allowing the library to remain under the management of the Society. A petition embodying the idea was presented to the proper committee of the Legislature in 1872. In reply the petitioners were informed that, instead of granting a special act, the substance of what was asked for would be recommended as a general law to apply to towns throughout the Commonwealth. The law went into effect in April, 1872, and the Debating Society at once reorganized under the present corporate name of the Young Men's Library Association. Its members had the honor of suggesting the law, and were the first to incorporate under it. The library steadily increased both in size and usefulness until its quarters in Sandford's Block were wholly inadequate, and it was evident that a special building ought to be provided. In 1879 Mr. Calvin Hitchcock offered the lot at the corner of Main and Church Streets to the Association as a gift, provided ten thousand dollars be raised for the erection of a building. In March, 1880, Hon. William Hyde met Mr. Hitchcock's condition with an offer of ten thousand dollars. The building was erected, and was formally dedicated on July 19, 1881. Since that time the number of volumes has increased from less than 4,000 to more than 14,000, and the library has become one of the most important institutions of the town. Two reading-rooms, well supplied with current newspapers and magazines, are maintained in the building, which also serves as a repository for articles of curious and historic interest.

### THE TOWN HALL

For a hundred years the meeting-house at the Centre was also the Town Hall, and there all town meetings were held. The law of 1833, making the support of religion voluntary,

in the fall of 1868, and the building was opened in December of the following month. The library was opened to the public on Feb. 20, 1869, with 100 volumes. An annual fund for the library was started for the purpose of raising money. The management did not work well. It was determined, however, by a special act of incorporation which should allow the library to receive that the library be made free to all the people, and to appropriate money for its support, without being the library in name and in the management of the library. A petition, embodying the idea was presented to the joint session of the Legislature in 1870, though the petitioners were informed that, instead of granting a special act, there should be a bill introduced by which the library should be a general law to be passed through the Legislature. The law went into effect in April, 1871, and the following Society of men organized under the name of the Young Men's Library Association. Its members had the honor of suggesting the law, and were the first to incorporate under it. The library should be organized both in name and in fact, and the members of the Young Men's Library Association should be the first to exhibit that a general building could be provided. In 1870 Mr. Henry Henshaw offered the lot at the corner of Main and Third streets to the Association as a gift, provided the Association should be voted for the erection of a building. In March, 1871, Rev. William Hyde was Mr. Henshaw's candidate for one of the General Officers. The building was erected, and was formally dedicated on July 15, 1871. From that time the number of volumes has increased from less than 1,000 to more than 10,000, and the library has become a part of the most important institutions of the State. The management of the library was under the management of the Young Men's Library Association, and the building, which was built on a corner of the lot, was a success and a failure.

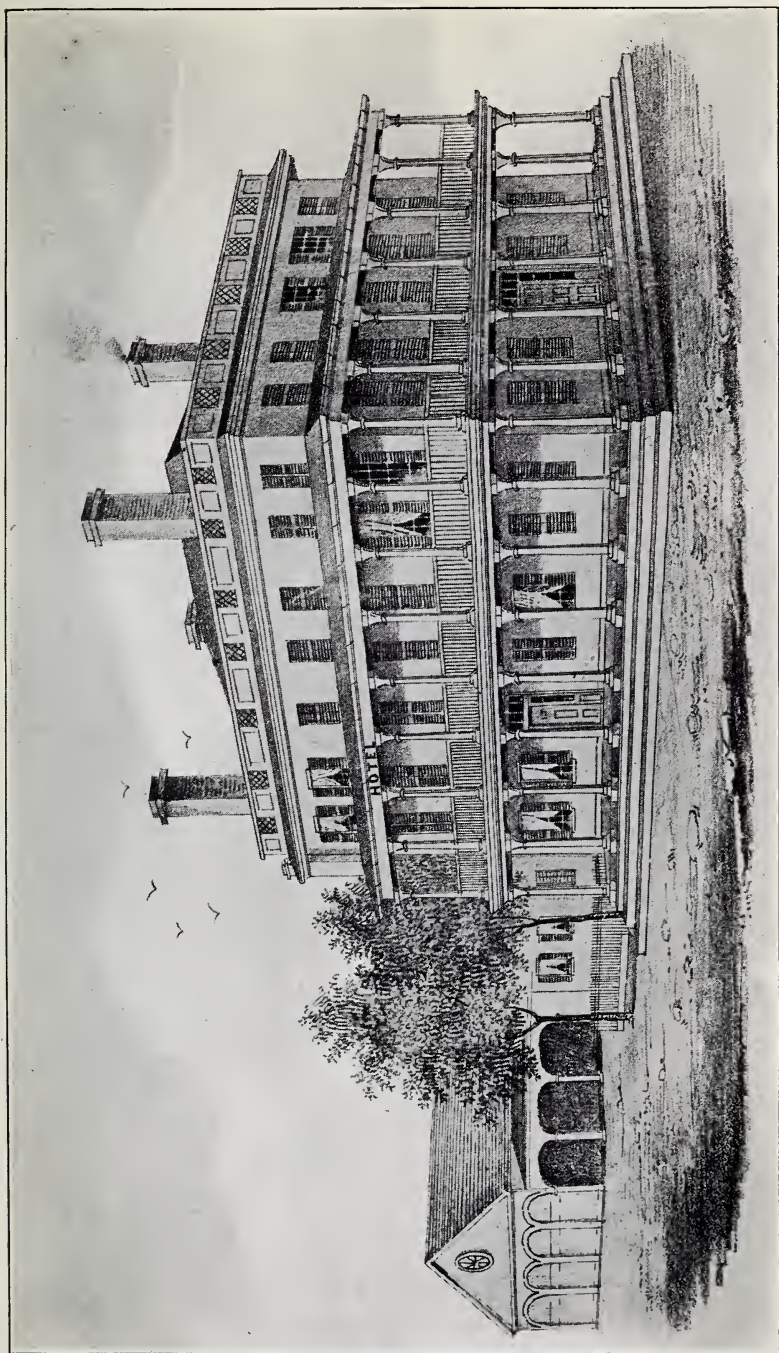
#### *PHELPS HOTEL—1854*

The Phelps Hotel was built on the lot at the corner of Main and Third streets, and was formally dedicated on July 15, 1871. From that time the number of volumes has increased from less than 1,000 to more than 10,000, and the library has become a part of the most important institutions of the State. The management of the library was under the management of the Young Men's Library Association, and the building, which was built on a corner of the lot, was a success and a failure.

#### *The City Hall*

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raised certain questions in regard to the rights of towns in the use of church property. Nevertheless town meetings continued to be held at the Centre long after public convenience would have been better served in the village.

In 1843 the meeting-house was remodelled by the Society in its present form, and objection was made to using the auditorium for secular purposes. At the March meeting, 1843, an article appeared in the warrant "to apply the Surplus Revenue to building a Town House." The article was, however, passed over. A warrant for a meeting in May of the same year contained an article to see if the town would accept the lower story of the Methodist meeting-house, about to be erected, for a Town Hall, and appropriate part of the Surplus Revenue to furnish the same. This, likewise, was passed over. At a later meeting, May 15, it was voted to accept the lower story of the meeting-house at the Centre for a Town Hall, provided the First Congregational Society give a satisfactory title. From the Surplus Revenue \$500 was appropriated to fit up the room. But the inconvenience of the Centre as a meeting-place grew more and more apparent, and an article was placed in the warrant for the March meeting of 1846 "to see if the town will build a Town House in the village." The article was passed over, but appeared again a month later, at which time it was voted to choose a committee of five to superintend the building of a Town House. The limit of cost was placed at \$2,500, including land, building and fixtures. The committee consisted of Chas. A. Stevens, Joel Rice, Allender Brakenridge, Seth Pierce and Avery Clark. At a town meeting held in May it was decided to build a Grammar Schoolroom in the upper story<sup>1</sup> of the Town House, and \$1,000 was added to the original appropriation. In November the work of building was passed over to the selectmen, who in April, 1847, asked for an appropriation of \$900 "for heating, lighting and fixtures." Thus the entire cost of the building came under \$4,500. The hall was opened with appropriate exercises on March 31, 1847, at which time was delivered the celebrated "Historical Address" by William Hyde, Esq.

<sup>1</sup> As a matter of fact, the schoolroom was on the first floor, the hall on the second.



This address needs no word of commendation from any later historian. It is above all praise, and stands as the one real classic that our town has produced. By formal vote of the citizens a copy of the address was requested for publication. The pamphlet, printed by Merriam and Cooke, of Brookfield, is now extremely rare and is much sought after by collectors.

For twenty years the old Town Hall served its double purpose, until, in 1867, it was burned to the ground. A most serious loss was the destruction of a great portion of the public records of the early years. Fortunately the Town Record Books, which contain the minutes of town meetings, had been removed from the hall. These, together with a single old account book, are all that have survived.

After the burning of the hall, town meeting was again held for a single session at the Centre, after which "Music Hall" on Bank Street was used until the construction of the new Town Hall on the site of the old one in 1885-86.

The present building contains all necessary offices, district court-room, etc., besides an ample auditorium.

The clock and Westminster chimes were placed in the tower in 1901 by the heirs of the late John H. Storrs.

### THE SURPLUS REVENUE

By the beginning of the year 1835 the national debt of the United States had been paid in full. From that time a surplus began to roll up in the Treasury so rapidly as to alarm financiers, who feared for the result of so large an amount of the nation's money being withdrawn from circulation. This unappropriated fund, the proceeds of extensive land sales and of a high tariff, amounted to \$35,000,000 by the beginning of 1836. Congress, after long debate, decided that the money should be distributed to the states *pro rata* of the population *as a loan*, though the belief was general that it never would be recalled.

Massachusetts received, in three installments, \$1,338,173, and proceeded to distribute the same among the towns of the state in proportion to the population. Ware's share approximated \$5,000. The use of the money thus received

has been a matter of considerable interest. In some states it was largely squandered.<sup>1</sup> New York made the best use of it, applying it to the improvement of its educational institutions. Massachusetts stands on middle ground, the Legislature deciding that it might be used for any purpose for which money could be lawfully raised by taxation.

In March, 1837, Ware voted to accept the town's proportion of the Surplus Revenue, and to invest it in bank stock. In August of the same year the latter vote, in regard to investment, was revoked, and a committee of the ablest men in town was appointed to take the subject of the Surplus Revenue into consideration. The committee in September reported that they had discussed the matter with the citizens generally, but found no unanimity of opinion whatever. "We find the citizens divided on this as on every other subject that is brought before them, . . . some in favor of a pauper establishment, some for loaning in small sums, . . . some for dividing it among the inhabitants, while others are in favor of returning it to the State Treasury." The committee really favored the latter, but finally recommended "that \$4,000 together with the fourth installment (provided we should receive it) be loaned to the Commonwealth, and the remainder be appropriated for town expenses for the current year." This recommendation was adopted by the town, and the money was eventually loaned to the State, for in the following year it was voted to expend the interest, amounting to two hundred dollars, in repairs upon the highways.

In 1839 it was "voted to authorize the Treasurer to draw from the State Treasury sufficient of the Surplus Revenue to repair the road recently ordered by the County Commissioners from the hotel in the Village to Hardwick Line." The following year the above vote was confirmed.

In 1842 it was voted to choose a committee to purchase a farm on which to support the paupers of the town, should the committee deem it expedient, and to make use of the Surplus Revenue as far as it is sufficient. Meanwhile the Treasurer was directed to invest the funds to the best advantage. The committee evidently did not favor the poor-

<sup>1</sup> E. G. Bourne, "History of the Surplus Revenue of 1837."

farm project, and took no action. In the following year an article was inserted in the warrant to see if the town would appropriate any portion of the Surplus Revenue to build a town hall. The article was, however, passed over. In the same year, 1843, the lower story of the meeting-house at the Centre was accepted for a town hall, and a committee appointed to fit it up for the purpose. They were authorized to draw not over \$500 from the Surplus Revenue for fittings and furnishings. In March, 1844, the former committee having proved delinquent, a new one was appointed and directed "to purchase and stock from the Surplus Revenue if sufficient, and for the want thereof to borrow sufficient to add thereto, and pay for the farm." The committee moved leisurely. In April, 1845, further inroads on the fund were made when the town voted to pay for building the bridge near the woollen factory from the Surplus Revenue. The poor-farm was bought of Moses Gray, Jr., in 1846 for \$2,500 and was stocked according to orders, — at what expense is not stated. The remainder of the Surplus Revenue was used, and in 1847 the town borrowed \$2,000 to complete the payment.

Ware's use of this interesting windfall was typical of the towns of the State, so far as the history has been traced out.

It may be remarked that the "fourth installment" was never paid. By Jan. 1, 1839, when it was due, the country was in a financial panic, and there was no surplus in the National Treasury. Meanwhile the power to recall the money had been withdrawn from the Treasurer of the United States by Congressional action. It was morally certain that Congress would never vote back the funds, — and it never has.

#### PHYSICIANS

The first doctor to settle in the town was Edward Daman,<sup>1</sup> who came from Reading, Connecticut. He first settled in Brookfield, soon after removing to Ware. The record of the births of his children begins here in 1735. In 1745 he bought of Paul Thurston a farm of 206 acres between Muddy and

<sup>1</sup> This is the spelling on his gravestone.



Flat Brooks, bordering on Hardwick, and bounded westerly by the Manour. Dr. Daman is frequently mentioned in the Town Records. He died March 16, 1800, at the age of 96. In 1768 Dr. Woods<sup>1</sup> is allowed "for Doctren Uriah Bush £1.,16." In 1772 Dr. Billings's rate is abated, and in 1779 his account is allowed for doctoring Uriah Gilbert. In 1775 Dr. Gilbert is appointed door-keeper for the meeting-house, and Dr. Shubal Winslow's account of 12s. is allowed.

In 1785 Dr. Ketrige is mentioned, and Dr. Bolton. Dr. Elias Bolton came from Mendon about 1780. After him was Dr. Walker, who came from Windham, Connecticut, and remained about six years. Among the bills against the estate of Jonathan Rogers, who died in 1784, is one from Dr. Estes How, one from Dr. William Thomas and one from Dr. Stearnes. Dr. How is also mentioned in the Town Records in 1786.

Dr. Rufus King came from Brookfield in 1789, and lived here half a century. He is mentioned several times as receiving fees from the town for doctoring the poor. In 1813 Dr. C. Hutchings receives fees for the same. In 1818 mention is made of Dr. Daniel Pierce, and of Dr. Horace Goodrich in 1820. Dr. Goodrich and Dr. Anson Moody, natives of South Hadley, settled here about that time, practising in partnership. Dr. Moody not long after removed to Connecticut. Dr. Goodrich remained in Ware until 1853, when he also removed to Connecticut. In 1843 Dr. E. C. Richardson came from Watertown, and remained here to the end of his life. Dr. David W. Miner came in 1845, and practised for fifty years. Dr. John Yale studied with Dr. Goodrich, and began practising in Ware in 1846. He was a son of Rev. Cyrus Yale, pastor of the East Church. Dr. Yale's death removed the last of what might be called the old time physicians of the town.

#### NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper published in Ware was the *Village Gazette*. Hemenway & Fisk began its publication July 7,

<sup>1</sup> In the Probate Records is found a bill of Dr. Obad<sup>r</sup> Wood for attending Benjamin Bartlett in his last sickness. Bartlett died in 1761.

1847. On March 15, 1848, Mr. Fisk sold his interest to Mr. Hemenway, but continued as editor until Jan. 1, 1849. An examination of the single copy of the paper that has come under the writer's eye shows it to have been an unusual sheet for that period, when newspapers were little concerned with news, particularly with local news. The motto of the *Village Gazette* was this:

"A Record of the busy World,  
Its Clouds and Sunshine, Smiles and tears."

It was published by W. A. Hemenway, G. M. Fisk, editor, at one dollar a year. A notice informs the public that "letters to receive attention must be post paid."

A portion of the sheet was devoted to paragraphs, literary or humorous, and there was also a considerable amount of local and general news. Politics came first in this line, and we find announced "Good news for the Whigs." This number gives the votes cast in town for Presidential electors: Whig, 218. Democrat, 124. Free Soil, 151. There is the usual proportion of patent medicine advertising, and several business cards of neighboring towns. The local advertising might serve as a business directory for 1848.

Demond & Ruggles, Boots & Shoes, hats & caps.

L. Draper, Stoves.

S. Newbourn & Brother have just taken the Old Company Store.

S. F. Pepper, Variety Store. Muffs etc. Wood. Patent Medicines. "Pepper's burning fluid, or chemical oil, 75 cts. per gallon." Daguerreotypes taken.

D. Converse & Co. Groceries.

Jas. Tolman & Son. Fur robes, clothing.

W. S. Brakenridge, Medicines, Fire Insurance.

Hutchinson & Brooks, Bank St. Boot & Shoe Store (under the Baptist Church).

W. DeWitt, Hardware.

A. Randall, Boots & Shoes.

Theodore Field, Dye House.

A. Clark, Millinery etc.

L. Hilton, Oyster Room.

Simpson's Tailoring Establishment.

W. H. Willard, Tailoring.

A. R. Jessup, Dry Goods.

G. C. Jennison, Boston & Ware Express.

L. Hyland has taken the store recently occupied by J. H. Peters, Cor. Church & Main Streets.

Lightning — The Subscriber has recently set up one of those recently invented batteries for the purpose of Gold and Silver plating. L. Babcock.

For Sale — The Carpet in Pew No. 101, Congregational Church, 2 hymn books, and various small articles including a mouse trap. Addison Sandford.

The *Village Gazette* became the *Ware Gazette* in 1849, and in 1850 the subscription list was sold to J. F. Downing who founded the *Ware American*, enlarged the paper and published it until the following autumn, when he sold the subscriptions to the *Springfield Republican*.

There lies before me Vol. 1, No. 1, of the *Ware Offering and Factory Girls' Garland, Devoted to Polite Literature, Science, Morals, and the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge*. It was published in January, 1848, as a monthly, by S. F. Pepper at 37½ cents a year. It contains four pages, twelve by sixteen inches. It is an "improving" sheet wholly without news. The leading article is a lurid story entitled "The Stained Hand, or the Criminal His Own Accuser." There are several poems and short articles on "Dreams," "Popping the Question," "Cleanliness," "The Cause of Meteors," etc. The editor is the only advertiser, and it is announced that "all subscribers may consider themselves contributors." This interesting periodical only reached three or four numbers.

The *Ware Weekly Courier* was commenced Jan. 1, 1848, by C. H. & W. F. Brown. It was a reprint of the *Worcester Aegis*, having a Ware heading and local column. It lived but a few weeks.

The *Ware Standard* was established here by Gordon Fisk but soon after, the Western Railroad (later called the Boston & Albany) being put through Palmer, Mr. Fisk removed his headquarters to that town and founded the *Palmer Journal*. He continued the issue of the *Ware Standard* as a reprint until 1897. In like manner the *Ware Gazette*, an offshoot of the *Barre Gazette*, was circulated in town for some years.



On Oct. 26, 1887, was issued the first number of the *Ware River News*, an entirely new publication under the management of R. E. Capron. This weekly is still under the same management, and is the only newspaper published in town.

### RAILROADS

The citizens of the town early realized the advantages that would accrue from a railroad connecting Ware with other places. Before the building of the Boston & Albany Railroad the town petitioned the Legislature to carry such a road through Ware. Though the general project was accomplished, our town was left at one side. In 1847 we find a petition of Joseph Hartwell and others for authority to incorporate and power to construct a railroad through Hardwick, Barre, Hubbardston and Gardner, to connect with the Vermont and Massachusetts Railroad at or near South Gardner.

In 1851 a company was incorporated to build a road that should follow the course of the Ware River, to be known as the Ware River Railroad. On April 26, 1869, the town authorized and directed the selectmen to subscribe for stock in this corporation to the amount of five per cent. of its valuation, said subscription not to exceed \$70,000. Stock to the value of \$50,000 was actually taken by the town, and in 1870 the road was constructed from Palmer to Gilbertville. The original company becoming embarrassed, a new corporation was formed in 1873, retaining the old name. Soon after the road was leased for ninety-nine years by the Boston & Albany Railroad, and became a branch of the latter line.

The Southern Division of the Boston & Maine Railroad, known as the Massachusetts Central, was opened for traffic in 1887. Under date of June 27 of that year we find the following notice:

First Passenger Trains on the Central. A train consisting of engine and three handsome passenger coaches arrived at Ware Sunday afternoon on the new Central Massachusetts railroad. The day being fine, 1,000 citizens went from the village to see the new cars. . . Yesterday

The Feb. 22, 1887, was issued the first number of the Ware News Times, an entirely new publication under the management of H. E. Capron. This weekly is still under the same management, and is the only newspaper published in Ware.

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### THE HAMPSHIRE MANUFACTURERS' BANK

In 1855 the town voted to build a road that should be known as the Ware Savings Bank. The town occupied the upper story of the building from 1850 to 1881. This building was replaced by the present National Bank Building.

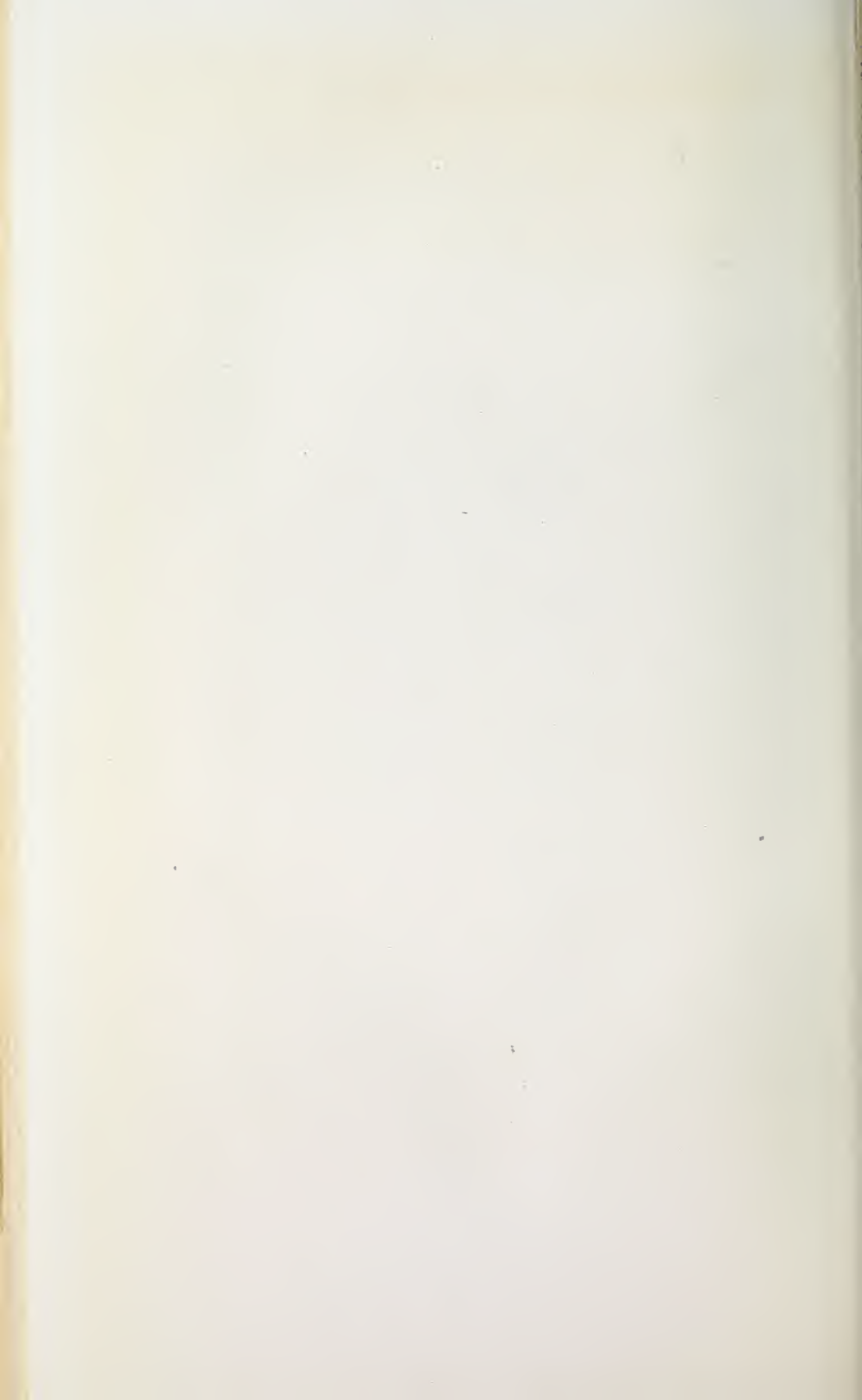
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First Passenger Train on the Central. A train consisting of engine and three handsome passenger coaches arrived at Ware Sunday afternoon on the new Central Massachusetts railroad. The day being fine, 1,000 citizens went from the village to see the new cars. Yesterday







morning the first passenger train started at 7:25. Among the passengers were noticed Charles D. Gilbert, George Gould, Perry Cheevers, Harry Prendeville, John Connor, F. N. Hosmer and Joseph Harding. A large number of excursionists from Boston came by the 10 A. M. train and dined at the Hampshire House."

### BANKS

On Feb. 26, 1825, the Hampshire Manufacturers' Bank was incorporated with a capital of \$100,000. The first president was Elnathan Jones of Enfield, who filled the office until 1827, and was followed by Joseph Bowman of New Braintree, who continued until 1848. Orrin Sage followed Mr. Bowman, from 1848 to 1865. William Hyde filled the office from 1865 to 1888, and William S. Hyde from 1888 to 1899. The present president is Henry K. Hyde. In 1836, 1848 and 1853 \$50,000 was added each year to the capital, and in 1857 \$100,000. In 1864, with the passing of the State banks, the Manufacturers' Bank was changed into a national corporation under the name of the Ware National Bank. The capital was further increased to \$400,000 in 1869, but was reduced ten years later to \$300,000. The present building was erected in 1893, replacing the less convenient but more attractive looking building that faced Main Street so many years.

The Ware Savings Bank was incorporated in 1850. Joel Rice was treasurer until 1857, and was followed by Otis Lane, who held the position until 1885, when he was succeeded by the present treasurer, Frederick D. Gilmore. The steady increase of business demanding more ample quarters, the Bank Building was doubled in size and greatly improved in appearance in 1903. A modern, up-to-date vault was constructed in the early part of the present year. The number of depositors at the beginning of 1911 is 10,505, and deposits amount to \$5,800,000. The assets of the institution are \$6,200,000. The presidents of the Savings Bank from its incorporation have been William Hyde, Charles A. Stevens, and Lewis N. Gilbert.

## ASSESSORS LISTS

The Sum total of this Bill is £17-4-7  
Ware February the 16<sup>th</sup> 1787

Daniel Gould } Assessors  
Jacob Pepper } for  
William Anderson } Ware

Mens Names	Polles	Real Estate			Personal Estate		
	s d	s	d	q	s	d	q
Anderson W <sup>m</sup>	1 8	1	5	2	0	7	2
Adams John	1 8	2	6	0	0	9	2
Andrews Lemuel	1 8	2	8	2	0	5	0
Adams Ephe <sup>m</sup>		0	2	2			
Brakenridge Cap <sup>t</sup>	1 8	7	11	0	1	8	0
Brakenridge W <sup>m</sup>	1 8	4	2	0	1	1	1
Brakenridge James	1 8	3	9	0	0	10	0
Brakenridge George	1 8	3	4	0	0	10	2
Brakenridge Francis	1 8	2	6	0	0	7	2
Brown Lieut	1 8	3	10	2	1	0	1
Brown Moses	3 4	3	5	2	1	2	2
Brown Samuel	3 4	4	2	0	1	8	0
Bush Widow	1 8	1	4	2	0	2	2
Buker Calven	1 8	1	3	0	0	3	0
Cummings Lieut	3 4	5	10	0	1	8	0
Cummings Benj <sup>a</sup>	1 8	1	5	2	0	5	2
Cummins Simeon	3 4	1	10	2	1	1	1
Cummins Joseph	1 8	1	5	2	0	11	2
Coney Cap <sup>t</sup>							
Cross John	1 8	1	1	0	0	5	2
Chandler Joseph	1 8	0	7	2	0	4	0
Chandler Joseph Jr	1 8						2
Clapp Elijah		0	2	0			
Dunsmore Sam <sup>el</sup>	3 4	6	0	2	2	0	0
Daman Stephen	1 8	2	8	2	0	6	3
Downing John		3	8	0	1	3	0
Davis Abijah	1 8	0	6	0	0	2	0
Ellis Seth	1 8	0	8	2	0	3	0
Eddy John		0	8	2			
Eaton Samuel		0	2	0			
Foster Jonathan	3 4	2	7	0	1	0	2
Gilmur John	1 8	1	9	0	0	6	0
Gilmore James	1 8	1	10	2	0	10	0
Gould David	1 8	3	4	0	0	11	0
Hixson Elkanah	1 8	1	9	0	0	7	0



# MISCELLANEOUS TOWN SUBJECTS

247

Jenkins Deacon	1 8	1 8 0	0 8 0
Jenkins John	1 8	3 0 0	0 6 2
Leonard Dan	1 8	0 6 0	0 1 0
Lazell Jacob	1 8	0 5 0	0 2 2
Lamberton James	1 8	3 4 0	0 9 1
Lammon James Jr	1 8	2 3 1	0 8 2
Lamberton Seth		3 0 0	0 8 0
Marsh Judah	1 8		
Marsh Thomas	1 8	4 7 0	1 3 0
Marsh Jonathan	1 8	3 10 2	1 0 0
Marsh Judah Jr	1 8	5 6 2	1 1 0
Marsh Joel	1 8	1 1 2	0 8 0
Magoon Isaac	1 8	3 0 0	0 8 0
Magoon Isaac 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 8		0 3 0
Magoon Elex <sup>r</sup>	3 4	9 8 2	2 1 2
Magoon John	1 8		
McClintock Joseph		1 10 2	
McCoy Neal	1 8	0 10 0	0 3 2
McClintock David	1 8	2 11 0	0 6 2
Morse Phille	3 4	5 2 2	1 5 2
Miller Benj <sup>a</sup>		0 3 0	
Nye Samuel		1 5 2	0 4 0
Nye Ebenezer	1 8	1 5 2	0 6 0
Paddock Ephariam	1 8		
Paddock Bradford	1 8	2 0 0	0 5 2
Pepper Ezra	1 8	0 10 0	0 2 2
Persons Joshua		2 1 0	0 2 2
Raimonds John		1 3 0	0 1 2
Roberson William		2 1 0	0 8 0
Smith Deacon	3 4	3 6 2	1 1 0
Roberson Joseph		2 11 0	0 3 0
Smith Merverick	1 8	1 9 2	0 5 2
Sherman Reuben	3 4	2 1 0	0 9 0
Simonds Judah	1 8	0 7 2	0 5 0
Shaw Andrew	1 8		
Osborn John	1 8	1 2 0	0 2 2
Wood Zephaniah	3 4	4 2 0	0 9 2
Soul Constant	1 8	1 8 0	0 9 2
Snell William	1 8	3 11 2	0 10 0
Stone Oliver	1 8	1 5 2	0 2 2
Thomas Nehemiah	1 8	2 1 0	0 10 0
Thayer Jedidiah	1 8	1 6 0	0 2 3
Winslow Thomas	1 8		0 1 3
Wait David		0 7 0	

The sum total of this Bill is £61-15  
Ware September 25, 1787

Daniel Gould } Assessors  
Jacob Pepper } for  
W<sup>m</sup> Breakenridge Jr } Ware

Mens Names	Polles			Real Estate				Personal Estate			
	£	s	d	£	s	d	q	s	d	q	
Andrews Stephen		6	10		7	1	0		0	6	0
Andrews Tho <sup>s</sup>	1	0	6		8	9	0		1	6	3
Andrews John		6	10		8	9	0		1	4	0
Andrews Timothy		6	10		2	6	0				
Bonney Charles		6	10		7	3	2				
Bullen Capt.					7	1	0		0	6	0
Bellows Silas	1	0	6		8	4	0		2	1	0
Bellows Joseph		13	8		6	3	0		1	7	3
Bowdion W <sup>m</sup>		6	10		7	3	2		1	11	1
Cleland Sam <sup>el</sup>		13	8		9	7	0		2	0	0
Capon James					7	11	0		1	4	0
Conve(r)s Phineas		6	10						0	11	0
Cleland Thomas		6	10		0	10	0				
Gray Joseph		13	8	1	2	11	0		5	8	3
Gould Eben <sup>r</sup>		6	10		6	10	2		1	4	0
Harwood Andrew		6	10		18	9	0		2	4	3
Hide Othniel		13	8		6	0	2		2	5	0
Joslyn Abraham		6	10		7	6	0		3	2	0
Kee Steward		6	10		5	5	0		2	1	0
Lamon James		13	8		14	7	0		4	2	0
Legate Esqu <sup>r</sup>					16	0	0				
Lamon David		6	10		7	3	2		1	3	0
Lamon W <sup>m</sup>		6	10								
Linsley Norrin		6	10		1	3	0		0	5	0
Merritt Benj <sup>n</sup>		6	10		14	7	0		3	1	2
Merritt Ichabod		6	10						1	0	2
Morton Thomas		6	10		10	5	0		3	3	2
Morton Widow					2	6	0		0	2	2
McClintock Tho <sup>s</sup>		6	10		2	6	0		0	7	2
Miller W <sup>m</sup>					2	6	0				
Nevens James					6	10	2		1	3	0
Overen John Henry					2	1	0				
Paige William		10	3	1	9	9	2		6	3	0
Paterson Joseph		13	8		7	6	0		1	10	2
Pepper Isaac		6	10		17	8	2		1	8	0
Pepper Jacob		6	10		17	1	0		3	2	3
Partrick William		13	8		16	10	2		5	5	0
Partrick Thomas		6	10		12	6	0		3	7	1
Partrick Sam <sup>el</sup>		6	10		11	5	2		2	11	0

Partrick Johnson	6 10	8 4 0	2 8 2
Parker John	13 8	7 11 0	1 0 2
Pond Sewa	6 10	6 3 0	2 1 0
Quinton John	1 0 6	2 6 3 0	12 6 0
Rogers Richard		7 1 0	1 9 2
Rogers Daniel	6 10	7 1 0	1 2 0
Smith Lemuel	10 3	3 6 2	0 10 0
Simond Jotham	6 10	1 3 0	0 5 0
Shaw Widow	6 10	1 2 11 0	7 6 0
Shaw Erwin	6 10	17 3 2	5 1 3
Shaw John		2 6 0	
Stone Amos	6 10	12 6 0	2 1 0
Simpson Charles	6 10	1 0 2	0 5 0
Swift Whitfield	6 10	7 3 2	1 0 2
Swift Lem <sup>el</sup>	6 10	0 10 0	
Thayer Abra <sup>m</sup>	6 10	17 1 0	5 10 0
Thayer Eben <sup>r</sup>	6 10		
Thompson Benj <sup>a</sup>	1 0 6	1 8 6 2	7 6 0
Tisdale John	13 8	5 2 2	3 9 0
Whitney John	6 10	6 3 0	2 1 0
Wheelor John	6 10		
White Jabez	6 10	13 9 0	1 0 2
Read W <sup>m</sup> Exeunt <sup>r</sup>		5 0 0	
Newton Oliver	6 10		0 10 0
Marsh Silas	6 10	1 8 0	
Thompson Noah		3 6 2	0 4 2
Gould Daniel	10 3	1 4 2	6 5 2

COMMITTEE OF THE PRECINCT

- 1743 — Jacob Cummings, Edward Ayres, Joseph Simonds.  
 1744 — Jabez Omstead, Jacob Cummings, Edward Ayres.  
 1745 — Thomas Marsh, Jacob Cummings, William Blackmer.  
 1746 — Jacob Cummings, Samuel Huggins, William Blackmer.  
 1747 — Jacob Cummings, William Blackmer, Samuel Huggins.  
 1748 — Jacob Cummings, Judah Marsh, Moses Allen.  
 1749 — John Davis, Jacob Cummings, Joseph Simonds.  
 1750 — Jacob Cummings, Timothy Brown, John Davis, Joseph Scott, Edward Daman.  
 1751 — John Davis, Jacob Cummings, Timothy Brown, Joseph Scott, Joseph Wright.  
 1752 — Jacob Cummings, Benjamin Lull, Samuel Davis, Judah Marsh, John Davis.



- 1753 — William Blackmer, William Breakenridge, John Downing.  
 1754 — Jacob Cummings, Edward Daman, Israel Omstead.  
 1755 — Jacob Cummings, Samuel Sharmon, William Breakenridge, Joseph Scott, Jonathan Rogers.  
 1756 — Jacob Cummings, William Breakenridge, Samuel Sharmon.  
 1757 — William Breakenridge, Samuel Sharmon, Jonathan Rogers.  
 1758 — William Breakenridge, Samuel Sharmon, Jonathan Rogers.  
 1759 — William Breakenridge, Edward Ayres, Joseph Foster.  
 1760 — Jacob Cummings, John Davis, John Downing.  
 1761 — Jacob Cummings, William Breakenridge, Samuel Sharmon.

SELECTMEN FOR FIRST YEAR AFTER INCORPORATION  
OF TOWN.

- 1762 — Samuel Sharmon, William Breakenridge, John Davis, Jacob Cummings, Judah Marsh.

PRECINCT AND TOWN CLERKS

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1742 — John Post           | 1830 — William Bowdoin      |
| 1744 — Jacob Cummings      | 1831 — Leonard Gould        |
| 1748 — John Davis          | 1832 — George W. Porter     |
| 1750 — Timothy Brown       | 1837 — Jason Gorham         |
| 1751 — Jacob Cummings      | 1839 — Lewis Demond         |
| 1757 — William Brakenridge | 1850 — Francis De Witt      |
| 1760 — Maverick Smith      | 1853 — William H. Willard   |
| 1762 — William Brakenridge | 1855 — E. L. Brainerd       |
| 1777 — Abraham Cummings    | 1856 — R. L. Hathaway       |
| 1780 — David Brown         | 1858 — Stephen B. Witherell |
| 1782 — Thomas Tuffs        | 1861 — Francis De Witt      |
| 1786 — David Brown         | 1863 — S. B. Witherell      |
| 1787 — William Paige       | 1866 — George K. Cutler     |
| 1789 — William Bowdoin     | 1868 — Lewis P. Edwards     |
| 1811 — Leonard Gould       | 1872 — Hubert M. Coney      |
| 1825 — Joel Rice           | 1876 — Almer F. Richardson  |
| 1826 — Leonard Gould       | 1907 (41 days)              |
| 1828 — Joel Rice           | Henry K. Hyde               |
| 1829 — William Snow        | 1908 — Edward P. Morse      |

REPRESENTATIVES FROM WARE <sup>1</sup>

To Provincial Congress in 1775

William Brakenridge      Joseph Foster      Thomas Jenkins

*Under the Constitution*

1787 — Daniel Gould	1839 — Thomas Snell
1788, 1795 —	Jason Gorham
Isaac Pepper	1840 — John Bowdoin
1798, 1801-04, 1806-12 —	Nelson Palmer
William Bowdoin	1841 — Joel Rice
1813-14 —	1842 — Ebenezer Gould
Enos Davis	1843 — Horace Goodrich
1815 — William Paige, Jr.	1844 — Jonathan Harwood
1816-17, 1822 —	1845 — Ansel Phelps, Jr.
Joseph Cummings	1846 — Samuel M. Lemmon
1824-25 —	1847 — Avery Clark
Aaron Gould	1851 — Ira P. Gould
1826 — Wm. Paige, Jr.	1852 — Harrison French
Alpheus Demond	1853 — Charles A. Stevens
1827-29 —	1854 — William E. Bassett
Aaron Gould	1855 — Freeman W. Dick-
1829 — Samuel Phelps	inson
1830 — Joel Rice	1856 — Samuel H. Phelps
1831 — Aaron Gould	1857 — George H. Gilbert
Joel Rice	1858 — Benjamin Davis, Jr.
1832 — Allender Braken-	1860 — Lewis Demond
ridge	1861 — Samuel Morse
Homer Bartlett	1863 — Joseph Hartwell
1833 — Alpheus Demond	1864 — Luther Chapin, Jr.
Enos Davis	1866 — William E. Lewis
1834 — Calvin Morse	1868 — Henry Bassett
Benjamin Wilder	1870 — Benjamin F. Angell
1835 — Thomas Wilder	1872 — John W. Robinson
John Osborn, Jr.	1874 — Henry C. Davis
1836 — Thomas Wilder	1876 — Addison Sandford
Reuben Lazell	1879 — Frederick N. Hosmer
1837 — Edmund Freeman	1882 — Charles E. Stevens
Reuben Lazell	1884 — William C. Eaton
1838 — Thomas Snell	1886 — Levi W. Robinson
Royal Bosworth	1891 — William S. Hyde

<sup>1</sup> In the years not named the town was not represented.

1892 — Frederick A. Volk	1900-01 —
1894 — Frank M. Sibley	Arthur E. Newcomb
1895 — George D. Storrs	1906-07 — John H. Schoon-
1897 — William N. Newcomb	maker

## RAWSON'S PETITION

Hampshire Co.

To the Honble His Majesties Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace now holden at Springfield within & for the County of Hampshire this 25th Day of Aug<sup>t</sup> Anno Dom. 1752

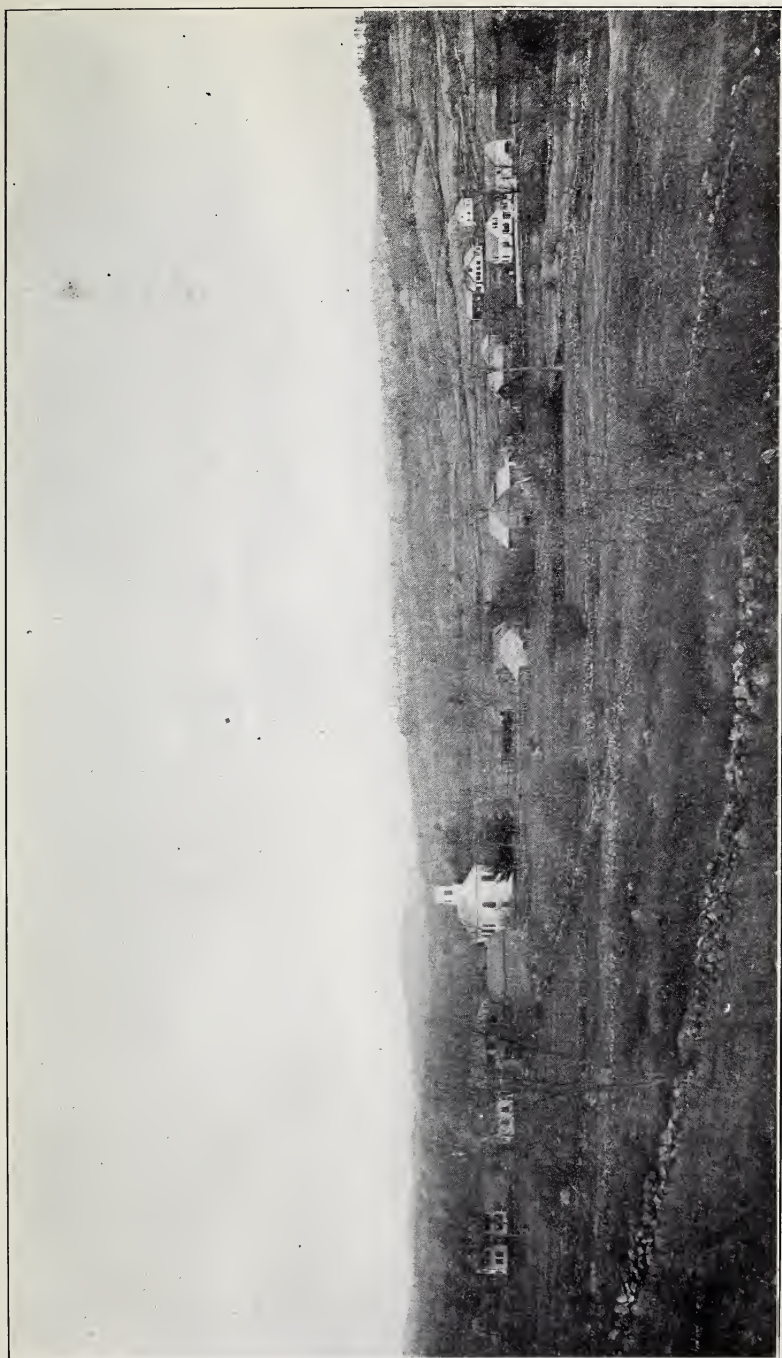
Grindall Rawson of the Plantation called the Mannor of Peace sometimes & sometimes called Ware River Parish in said County Clerk & Minister of God's Word to the Inhabitants of said Parish

Humbly sheweth

That on the Ninth Day of May 1751, at said Manor he was regularly inducted into the Work of the Gospel Ministry ordained Pastor of the Church of Christ there & that the Inhabitants of the said Parish previous to his said Settlement there and as an Encouragement thereto agreed & contracted with Him to give Him the Sum of one hundred pound Lawful Money For a Settlement to be paid in Materials for Building & in Labour at Money Price and also to give Him the sum of Forty Five Pounds Lawful Money yearly for the Salary for the Two first years of his Continuance in the Ministry there & then to add thereto the Sum of Four pound yearly till the Whole amount to Sixty Pounds annually and the sd Grindall saith that the Inhabitants of said Parish disregarding the said Contract & obligation have never paid the sd Complain<sup>t</sup> The Sums agreed for his Settlement in Materials for Building or in Labour tho he has been always ready & desirous to receive the Same nor have they satisfied the same any other way Neither have they granted & asessed the Sum due to said Complain<sup>t</sup> for his First years Salary or if they have they have never allotted and paid the same to sd Complain<sup>t</sup> as they ought to have done but altogether refuse & deny to do it whereby yr Complain<sup>t</sup> is reduc<sup>d</sup> to great Straights & Difficulties and is rendered unable to support Himself in the Important Business he has undertaken or to Support the Character of











a Gospel Minister. He therefore Humbly prays ye Hon<sup>bl</sup>  
 Cognizance of the Premises and seeks Relief therein as to  
 Law & Justice appertains and as in Duty bound shall ever  
 pray  
 Grindall Rawson

# A REMINISCENCE

By C. A. G.

READ AT THE GOLDEN WEDDING OF DEACON MILTON LEWIS, OF WARE,  
 APRIL 6, 1881.

Halt! halt! old Father Time!  
 Don't you hear this golden chime?  
 Stay here, and tell us if you know  
 What the world was doing so long ago.

Full fifty years you have swung your scythe,  
 Since this good couple, then young and blithe,  
 Were knotted together in a band so strong,  
 That their Golden Wedding demands my song.

Nay! ask not of me for an instant's pause;  
 I never was known as a breaker of laws.  
 I must onward move as surely as fate,  
 "Time and the tide for no man may wait,"  
 But memory here with the open scroll,  
 The long panorama may unroll,  
 And show to your glances, as backward cast,  
 The persons and scenes that have long since passed.

The first to appear as the roll glides by  
 Is the parson young, who the knot did tie;  
 With a clear blue eye and a shaven face,  
 A winning smile and a stately grace,  
 He gives kindly words to each child he meets,  
 And with courtesy true every friend he greets.  
 His fair, blooming bride, with her cheeks of rose,  
 And light nimble footsteps wherever she goes,  
 Intensely in earnest, with a positive air,  
 Is a partner well worthy his kingdom to share;  
 But would n't it now-a-days bring up a smile,  
 Should they walk, locked arms, through the great broad aisle?

Now, just at this point, my retrospect muse  
 Will give you a glimpse of those old-time pews,  
 With seats that turned up, and oh! what a clang,  
 As after the prayers they came down with a bang,  
 On all sides they were, and as some folks would say,  
 The great congregation looked "every which way."  
 Here sits uncle Richard, hair dressed in a queue,  
 And Abner and family in the same pew;  
 Not yet have the elders on him laid their hands,  
 To set him apart for the deacon's demands.

For farther along, next pew in the row,  
 Is the small wrinkled visage of good Dea. Snow.  
 Long time he "kept store," and sold blackstrap as well,  
 Which nobody then thought it wicked to sell.  
 But when better informed on the evils of drink,  
 Pastor and deacons from the test did n't shrink;  
 They formed a Society, maintained the pledge,  
 Yet it split the community just like a wedge.  
 Dea. Snow sold his store and lived by his farm,  
 No longer would *he* bring his neighbors to harm.  
 For years upon years, at the Wednesday night call,  
 He takes coals from his fire to build that in the hall.  
 In that hall, who that saw it can ever forget  
 Leonard Gould's little foot — is his crutch sounding yet?  
 For the good of the public he worked with his might,  
 So the foot was no matter when the head was all right.  
 Just over the broad aisle from Dea. Snow's pew,  
 Can you see it, half covered with kerchief of blue?  
 Behind him, Capt. B., his good cousin and friend,  
 A pattern of faithfulness unto the end.  
 O'er his conjugal pathway, the shadows, how deep;  
 But the vow that he's made he will loyally keep.  
 No Douglas more tender, no Bayard more true,  
 For the thirty long years it was given him to do.  
 Here 's the post, where Esq. Bowdoin must tack up the names,  
 Which the people's intentions of marriage proclaims,  
 But once in awhile, after service he stands,  
 Then in clear ringing accents calls out the banns.  
 There were some who considered the north pews a treat,  
 For the view which they had of the long singers' seat.  
 We have Andersons now, they had Andersons then;  
 They have always been known here as musical men.  
 There was Will, with flute, and S. F.'s clarionet,  
 Uncle Amasa's clarion the bass to complete,  
 Oriva's strong treble, so birdlike and clear,  
 While her mother sang counter for many a year.  
 The Snells were all singers, so far as I know;  
 And enough of them, too, to make out a good row.  
 Were just at this time in the choir to be found,  
 For help in the worship as Sundays came round.  
 And here were the children of old Dr. King,  
 Whose voices alone could make the house ring;  
 Bowdoin, Eunice and Sarah, Dea. Davis's Ann,  
 Loring Brigham, the tenor, long a prominent man  
 In the choir leadership; a few years farther on  
 Some one else will be leading, for he will be gone.  
 Sweet-voiced Gardner is still the first chorister here,  
 But soon in his place Dr. Cary 'll appear  
 Bringing in a new style, operatic and grand.  
 Does some one remember G. Lucas's hand,  
 With its fingers spread wide as he passed round the tone?  
 There 's no more fa, sol, las; those old ways are flown.

A glimpse at the business brings an end to these lays,  
 For Ware Town had business in these far away days.  
 The Keene O!<sup>1</sup> rushes in on each alternate morn,  
 From the Gardner hill-top resounds the post-horn;  
 It stops at the tavern ten minutes or so,  
 To take up any passengers wishing to go,  
 Give drink to the horses, to help them pull through,  
 And mayhap the driver 'll "wet his whistle," too.  
 S. Gould keeps the house in an orderly way;  
 'T is a favorite place for the teamsters to stay,  
 Good beds and good fare, and good landlady's found —  
 They have the best gingerbread sold anywhere 'round.  
 Is this the May training that is passing along?  
 The flood-wood militia are coming out strong;  
 Blue coats and white pants, red tipt white cockade,  
 Capt. Snell is commander of this day's parade.  
 It is only big boys to training may come,  
 So papas buy a treat for the children at home.

Aaron Gould, the rich farmer, has mention in brief,  
 Though a bachelor long, he 's town father in chief,  
 And when winter comes round, bringing sleigh-rides and sport,  
 He will spend it away at the great "Gineral Court."

In variety stores, on either side of the way,  
 Here 's Crowell and Stowell selling dry goods each day;  
 Tea, sugar and spice, besides lace for a ruff;  
 Crockery and slippers and fish-hooks and snuff,  
 I. Stearns has a shingle mill by the King brook;  
 D. J. Converse makes rifles<sup>2</sup> in this little nook.  
 At the fork of the roads stands the old blacksmith's shop,  
 Lee Sprague here shoes horses till ready to drop.  
 Down in the fields Osborn's tan-shop is seen,  
 But it takes Peter Wheeler to "run the machine."  
 Up the stream are the auger shops, busy with work,  
 T. Snell and his sons are not men to shirk;  
 The trip-hammer music booms out on the air;  
 Now all is deserted and silent and bare.  
 A. B. Adams, fine boot-maker, works at his trade,  
 For nobody is dreaming of things ready-made;  
 His work will be desirable, well-fitting and neat,  
 But he won't look out for the corns on the feet.  
 To Leonard Gould's house the apprentices come  
 To practice in shoe-making, finding a safe home;  
 They are taught in the trade, learn goodness as well;  
 A word on this point T. S. Norton could tell.  
 Jesse Bee Wetherbee; "salt of the earth"  
 Is none too expressive of his christian worth.  
 A queerer outside is not often seen, to be sure;  
 Though the setting be rough, the jewel is pure;

<sup>1</sup> Referring to stage-line from Ware to Keene, New Hampshire.

<sup>2</sup> For sharpening scythes.



By trade he's a joiner, and when spirits take flight,  
 For the body's encasement he works day and night,  
 It is simple stained pine, but it answers as well  
 As the costly trimmed casket in these days they sell.  
 A. Anderson & Sons shall make one more view  
 Of the industries various the people pursue.  
 Wheel-wrights and masons, and sextons as well,  
 For dinner and curfew they ring out the bell.  
 And when one in silence the last journey goes,  
 To "God's Acre" they bring him for quiet repose.

Now roll up the canvass — put out the light,  
 My review is all over — to the past bid goodnight.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Current prices of various commodities, taken from old accounts kept by William Anderson with his neighbors are as follows:

	s	d
1784 — Five days work spinning stocken yarn	2	1
Two washings	1	
Two days keeping house		10
1785 — $10\frac{1}{4}$ days spinning tow	4	8
$\frac{1}{2}$ bushel wheat	2	8
2 bushels oats	4	
Three pigs	8	
1789 — 4 barrels Sider	15	
2 days work of himself and of his oxen	6	
2 bushels of potatoes	3	
3 fowls	1	6
Butter, per lb.		6
Beef by the Quarter, per lb.		2
1798-1800		
95 lbs. beef	\$2.85	
5 pecks of corn & half a day tending mill	.79	
13 qts. of soap	.72	
Butter per lb.	.14	
Corn per bushel	.50	
Killing a hogg	.16	
Weaving per yard	.05 $\frac{1}{2}$	
One Quire of paper	.25	
200 feet of closing bords	1.00	
Turnips per bushel	.25	
$9\frac{1}{2}$ doz. of candles	1.14	

1804 — 6 lb. of Shugar	1.00
A Gound for Salley	1.45
One pint of Gin	.12½
One quart of Rum	.28
11 bushels of ashes	1.37
One chunk of tobacco	.12½
One pond press <sup>d</sup> tobacco	.25

Nothing more vividly pictures the times than old letters, though unfortunately but few have been preserved. The following extracts reflect the sombreness of life in Ware a century ago:

Ware, May 10, 1819.

. . . With Respect to our affairs here at Ware, through the protection and care of a kind Providance wee are all in tolerable health, and hope that these imperfect lines may find all of you enjoying the same blessing. Wee have had great movements of the Spirit of God on the hearts and minds of the People in this Town, a considerable number have joined the Church . . .

There has been no snow this winter to speak of and very mild to the 13th of February, then a snow and very severe and cold to the first of May . . .

May 1, 1820.

. . . Last winter was very severe, two feet of snow and sharp weather. Verry fine the month of April, but rather dry. It is now good planting weather. It is tolerable healthy at present, but there has been about nine deaths since the year came in in this town . . .

May 1, 1820.

. . . I am just able to keep about and do some small matter of work. My complaints are much as they were when you went away. Mother's being sick and unwell all winter, I have had to do more than I was able. She took of a cold which seated on her lungs, she had a violent cough, the Doctor thought her case was doubtful, we heard of a sirup that was made of the bark of the root of that willer that bears a white the spring that we use to call pusis, this sirup to be swallowed with honey and spirits. This sirup apeared to relieve cough more than anything the Doct could do . . .

Ware, Dec. 16, 1822.

Respectable and Beneficent Friends.

I think it my duty to answer your Request . . . and now take in hand to show you some of the marks of my crooked fingers. And through a kind Providence, wee are all in a tolerable State of health, but it has been very sickly in these parts this season, the measles last spring, and a malignant fever has prevailed this fall, which has caused a number of deaths. Wee have had a fruitful summer. Indian Corn and potatoes were exceeding good and other kinds of grain have come in well. . . .

Ware, February, 1823.

Benevolent and affectionate Friend.

It is gratifying to hear from our acquaintance and Friends when they have been long absent. But when there comes Disagreeable Tidings it strikes our feelings with a damp. Sir, I am sorry for your bad fortune, and am not able to grant you any relief. Sir, I have been in a state of bad health this winter with the Rheumatism and obliged to keep the house more than two months and when I got out among my Neighbours I endeavoured to inquire respecting the Buisnes that you requested me and I have been to Esquire Bowdoin but I find no encouragement respecting your term of service at Roxboro for it does not Correspond with the act of Congress. They go no farther back than seventy six. The act of Congress states a soldier must be enlisted Nine months in the Continental Service, the tower that you served in was eight months. The Congress takes no notice of that tower of service. And furthermore there was one or two men in this Town that were out in that same tower who have tried faithfully to recover a pension and are defeated. And now Sir, I have nothing of great importance to wright to you but with respect to our Family through the goodness of a Kind Providence wee are all in a comfortable state of health altho my Wife and I by old age are fast advancing toward the grave. And with respect to my Neighbours it has been verry sickly this year past and more Deaths than ever hapened in one year Since the Town was Settled by reason of a malignant fever resembling the Yellow fever. There has thirty six persons died. My son A — has but just escaped with the life with that fever. My son N — lost his second child a daughter about six years and



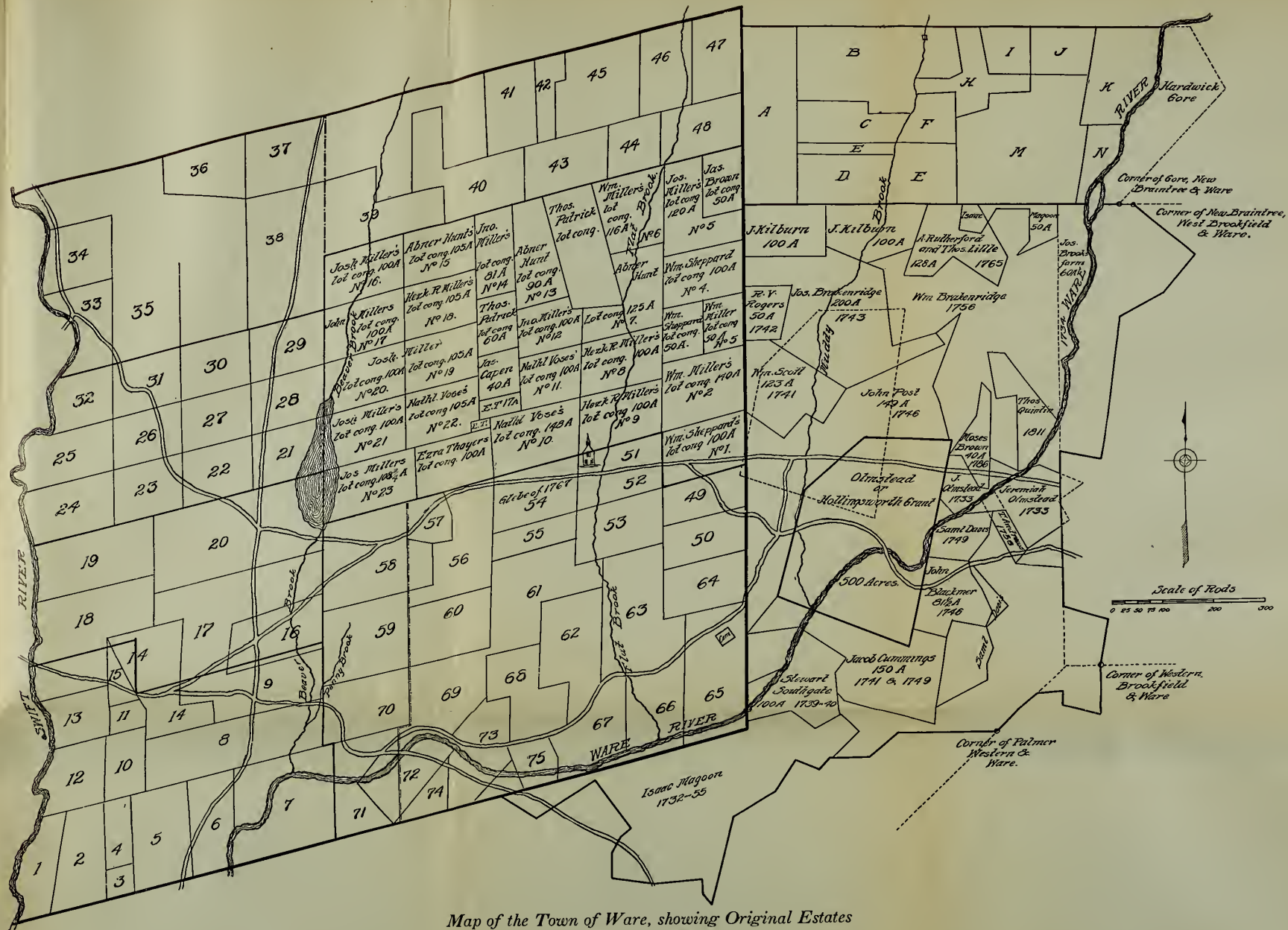
an half old last may with the Black measles. As to your relations in this Town Lieut. Cummings and his Wife are both dead. The Widow Hannah Mc Clintock is in a bad situation with the cramp rheumatism. She can neither stand nor go and perhaps never will. I might proceed further and inform respecting other matters such as alteration of Inhabitation and especially at Magoon's mills. A company of Boston Gentle Men have bought the place, set up two great Factories, one for Cotton, the other for Wollen. Built eight or ten great two story houses & a number of others.

Ware March the first, 1831.

Benevolent and absent but not forgotten Friends.

I take my pen with an endeavour to answer your request in a letter of yours, which I received on the seventh of January last. And now my friends by reason of eighty one years passing over my head and taking a bad cold and Rhumatism I have enjoyed but a low state of health this winter. Yet by the Paternal indulgence of a kind Providence I am yet alive, while many of my nearest friends and Neighbours have gone to the eternal World. And with respect to the affairs of this Town and People there is considerable alteration since you left this Town as it is divided into two Parishes with two settled Ministers, three large Factories at where Magoon's mills were. But I must turn my pen to another subject and let you know now some things respecting my Family and Friends which is as follows. In the year 1822 my son N——'s second child, a very promising little girl between six and seven years old died with the measles. Her mother being in a Consumptive state in the year 1825 was put to bed with a still born infant and Shee Survived but fourteen days, and two months after my son S——'s Wife died by a violent Fever. Again in the year 1826 my Wife died, and in 1827 my son N—— with Consumption died. So that in the space of five years and two months there was five Corps carried from my dwelling, my two Brothers and all my Sisters dead, so like Jobe's servants, I only am escaped alone to tell thee. I will give you a further list of names that you was acquainted with — old Samuel Dunsmore his wife and all his family, Levi & his wife and son Asa, Darius Eaton, Phille Morse, Capt. Oliver Coney, all the Cummings except the third Jeneration, old

Nathan Davis, John Andrews, John Gardner, Thomas Winslow his wife and Elijah, Isaac Pepper, Tomas and William Paterick and George Brakenridge, Thomas Marsh and Judah, — Simonds, Thomas and James Mc Clintock, their wives are still alive. Deacon Paige, David Gould and his wife, Jacob Lazel, old Thomas Dammon, James and John Gillmore, all the Magoons are dead, old Sam Brown and his son Sam. And now my kind Friends I have wrote till my trembling hand is almost tired and the half is not told. Forty eight hours interview personaly would give to you and me much greater satisfaction, but the great distance there is between you and us will probably prevent such a favour and as the time with you and me is very short it will be the greater wisdom in us to see that wee have secured an Interest in the merits and atonement which the Lord Jesus Christ has made for lost man. And now my friends as I cannot reach you my hand, the badge of parting friendship, I shall stop my pen after wishing these few imperfect lines may reach you and all your family and friends in health peace and prosperity. Adieu.



Map of the Town of Ware, showing Original Estates  
Compiled from Original Records





## XII

### THE MAP

THE labor involved in determining the location of the farms of the first actual settlers on the land has been fully equal to that required for the whole of the remainder of this book. My own work along this line has been confined to the Manour and the Marsh Tract. The remainder was thoroughly done by Mr. E. H. Gilbert in his "Early Grants," and his results are incorporated in this map.

No plot of the Manour has come to light, though that such a plot existed is evident from the fact that lots were often sold by number. In the absence of any such plan, the task of locating important lots is extremely difficult. A theoretical location often proves to be far from the actual one. Highways as boundary lines are sometimes most treacherous, for there is scarcely a highway in town today that follows the lines of roads in use before 1750. A plan of Abigail Miller's division of the Manour, found in the Probate Office in Boston, furnishes a sort of key to the situation, but gives by no means a complete solution. A description of Mrs. Hunn's division in the Probate Records at Northampton enables us to plot the original division into lots of her share of the Manour; yet when her property was sold by her executors the lines of the original lots were largely ignored. And the document, too, is full of errors. For example, Abigail Miller's share of Mrs. Hunn's estate is said to be 116 acres, while its dimensions are stated to be 96 by 345 rods, which makes 207 acres.

All of the lots except those in Abigail Miller's division have been plotted from records in the Registry of Deeds. It is interesting to note how generally the lines follow certain important lines of the grand divisions.

John Reed died in 1749. The agreement among the heirs for a general division was reached in 1755. The document describing it is recorded at Springfield. The Manour is first

separated into two parts by what shall be known as the Dividing Line.

First a line being drawn through said Manour from the south to the north lines thereof thus: to begin at the south east corner of the said Manour lands leased to Henry Dwight Esq. and in the south line thereof, from thence running north by the needle of the compass 174 rods to a white oak stake and stones marked HD at the north east corner of said land leased to said Dwight, thence west and by south 12 rods to a stake a little south of a pond-hole and at the south east corner of John Davises lott, from thence north by the needle to the north line of the Manour which line drawn through the Manour as aforesaid shall be called and known by the name of the Dividing Line, which line runs through the mill-pond up along, east of David Read's Benj'n Bartlets' and Enos Allen's lotts over the chimney of Moulton's house up to said north line to a small oak staddle with stones about it on a high ledge of rocks.

We are further told that the southern end of the Dividing Line is about 665 rods from Swift River. The jog in the Line is due to the existence of leases previously made by John Read, Sen., and indicates a tier of lots called the "South End Lots." No less than six lessees are named in describing the Line.

The further division and allotment of shares to the Read heirs is simple and clear as indicated on the map, with one exception, that of Charles and Mary Morris, whose division is thus described:

Beginning at the south west corner of said Abigail Millers division in the pond, thence south in said Dividing Line to the north west corner of the 7th lot in the fifth tier of lots from the east, thence east 11 deg. 15 m. north to the north east corner of said lot, then south by the east end of the 7th 8th 9th and 10th lots in said tier and down by the east side of the 7th lot from the east in the south end lots to the south line of said Manour.

From this point the Manour boundary-lines are followed.

A plausible solution has been found only after much study and innumerable rearrangements of lots. Apparently



the northern section, 250 rods in width, counts as one in numbering the lots. Also the south end lots must be taken as having their length north and south. Where lots are counted from the south, this tier counts one. The 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th lots, and the 7th from the east in the south end tier were reserved for John Read's widow, who was to enjoy the income from them during her life. They were regarded, however, as a part of the Morris division, the "Grand corner of Morris and Mrs. Hunn" being on the Dividing Line. The lessees of this excepted tier of lots have not been identified, though identification may reasonably be hoped for.

John Read, Jr., eldest son of John Read, born in 1700, was a man of considerable prominence in the Colony of Connecticut, being known as Colonel Read. His home was at Fairfield, as was also that of his sister, Ruth Hunn. He was a slave-holder, as may be seen from the following:

February <sup>1</sup> A. Dom. 1735/6

I married my Servant Negro man to my Servant Indian Maid Cate in presence of y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Nath<sup>l</sup> Hunn & Jemima Patterson witnesses.

Test. John Read, Justice of P<sup>e</sup>

Then follow the names of ten children born of this union.

Colonel Read died about 1776, leaving "a piece of land at Nod, so called," and "a piece of land at Mount Misery, so called," both farms inherited from his father's Connecticut estate. Of land in Ware, Colonel Read inherited 1,513 acres, all of which was disposed of either by him or by his son Hezekiah as follows:

1. 57 a.<sup>2</sup> bought by Job Carley in 1776 [the spelling of the name is that given in the deed]. In 1777 Job sells the same to Jonathan Carley.

2. About 100 a. bought by Joseph Pepper in 1775.

3. 14 a. bought by Noah Thompson in 1782. This bordered on Noah's farm in Palmer, which he had acquired from John Thompson, who in 1742 had purchased of Andrew McKee a grantee of the General Court in 1732.

<sup>1</sup> Fairfield Probate and Town Records. The enslaving of Indians was not as rare as one could wish.

<sup>2</sup> A — acres.

4. About 40 a. bought by Henry Thompson 1782.
5. 150 a. 100 bought by John Thompson Senior in 1763. Descended to Henry and Noah Thompson. Also 50 a. the western third of the lot, bought by John in 1769.
6. 100 a. bought by Seth Shaw in 1776.
7. 200 a. Henry Dwight, lessee. The full story of this lease has been told under "The Manour." The east half was sold to John Quintin in 1776.
8. Lot of John Davis, Lessee. Transferred at some time to Joseph Patterson. 200 a. This land was the subject of a law-suit in 1781. John Read, Jr., had allowed Joseph Patterson the use and occupation of two farms: — "The southernmost lot of land of the sixth tier of lots from the east in the Manour." Also "The southernmost lot of the seventh tier from the east." For ten years previous to the suit Patterson had paid no rent, and was chargeable as per bill filed with the papers of the suit as follows:

Joseph Patterson to John Read Esq.

Dr.

Sept. 10, 1780.

To the use of the southernmost Lot in the sixth Tier, from the 10th Day of Sept. 1770 (the Time to which the past Rents were paid) to this Time (Viz) 10 years at £5 by the year in Silver . . . . . £50

To the use of the southernmost Lot in the seventh Tier for the same 10 years at £5 per year in Silver . . . . . 50

£100,,0,,0

The defendant defaulted appearance, and judgment was rendered for the plaintiff, £122,,5,,1 silver or bills of public credit equivalent, together with costs amounting to £6,,13. Execution dated Feb. 19, 1781.

9. About 210 a. bought by Benjamin Thompson 1784. This lot touched two important points: "The Grand Corner of Morris and Mrs. Hunn," and "Bullon's Corner."

10. 40 a. bought by Seth Shaw, 1776.

11. 15½ a. bought by Seth Shaw, 1782.

12. 91½ a. bought by James Dow in 1774. Dow sells same to John Patrick and Joseph Patterson in 1779.

13. Samuel Lammon bought 100 a. in 1776.

14. James Lammon Jr. bought 68½ a. in 1767, and 89

acres adjoining on the south in 1782. He bought 78 acres more just north of Samuel Lammon and touching the corner of his own in 1783. A portion of this tract north of the road is known today as "The Lemon Swamp."

James Lammon, Sen., and Polly his wife, came from Ireland with their sons, Samuel and James, Jr., in 1727. They settled on land south of the Manour. The two sons removed to the Manour, as above, and this land remained in the family for more than a century,

15. Here stood "the house of the Widow Bush" in 1767.

Ruth Hunn of Fairfield, Conn., wife of the Rev. Nathanael Hunn, inherited 970 acres of the Manour from her father, John Read. Her share was directly north of John Read, Jr.'s division. Mrs. Hunn died about 1765. Her will may be seen in the Fairfield Probate Records, but it was never allowed. It contains a curious provision for turning her house into a mausoleum for the reception of her body. The heirs in 1767 petitioned the General Court of Connecticut for permission to sell her land in Ware "it being generally unimproved, and yielding no profit." Mrs. Hunn left no children. Her brothers and sisters were her only heirs.

16. Joseph Patterson bought of the estate of Ruth Hunn, also a strip of John Read's, amounting to 105 a. in 1769. Patterson gave a mortgage which was foreclosed by John Read in 1782. Read evidently sold the large tract comprising 16 and 17 to John Quentin, who, in 1782, gives a mortgage to Read. The acreage is stated as 175, but a calculation of the dimensions given in the deed shows it to be actually more than 275 acres. Phineas Davidson was living on the north east portion of this land shortly before the year 1800.

18. 181 a. Othniel Hyde bought in 1792 of Legate, it being part of Ruth Hunn's estate set off to Chas. Morris.

19. About 160 a. known as the Gerrold, or South Bellows lot. Thomas Legate 3rd sold to Clark McMaster of Palmer in 1806.

20. 275 a. bought by Joseph Quentin in 1782 of sisters of Ruth Hunn. Later became property of Daniel Gould.

The division of William Read contained 980 acres. William was born in 1710 and went to Boston with his father.



He became a judge of the Superior Court and died unmarried in 1780. His estate was small, there being but little of value besides his land in Ware.

21. 100 a. bought by John Bullen in 1771. At a much later date the Town Records refer to this as "the Bulling farm belonging to D<sup>a</sup> Daniel Gould."

This is the only lot in William Read's division that was sold before his death. A large part appears to have been rented or leased. The disposal of the rest of the tract was in the hands of Thomas Legate of Leominster, who also had power of attorney to sell for others of the Read heirs.

22. 100 a. bought by Charles Bonney in 1799. He lived on the lot previous to purchasing.

23. 73 a. Samuel Patrick bought in 1806.

24. 112 a. Samuel Blair bought in 1806. Previously occupied by Noah Willis.

25. 100. a. Benson Sherman bought in 1806.

26. 100 a. bought by John Tisdale, Jr., in 1799.

John Tisdale, Sen., came from Taunton in 1775 and settled in Greenwich, South Parish, near Enfield. In 1779 he removed to Ware.

27. 100 a. bought by Oliver Vose of Leominster in 1807. Described as the Henry Thompson lot, lately in occupation of William Clopford. In 1805 it was called the Lincoln Farm.

28 and 29 were bought by Isaac Pepper. David Reed appears to have held 28 as lessee and Benjamin Bartlett was lessee of 29, both being in possession in 1755, when the Dividing Line was located.

30. Described as "Land of James Brakenridge" in 1805. Jacob Lazell appears to have been Brakenridge's tenant.

31. 100 a. bought by Reuben Smith, 1803.

32. 139 a. bought by Reuben Sherman, 1806. It was "commonly called Stone's lot."

Deborah <sup>1</sup> and Henry Paget, daughter and son-in-law of John Read, received 2,385 acres in the northern part of the Manour as their share of the Read estate. The land extended from the Swift River to the east line of the Manour. This entire tract they sold to John Merret, or Merritt, of Provi-

<sup>1</sup> Deborah was twice married. Her first husband was a Mr. Willstead.

dence in 1756 for £424. Merritt died about 1770 still holding a considerable portion of the tract. His executor was John Henry Overing, and two or three sales are recorded in his name. That the situation was becoming complicated is shown from the following, copied from an ancient clipping that chance has preserved.

Notice is hereby given to the heirs of John Henry Overen that their lands lying in the town of Ware, in the County of Hampshire, are taxed in my collection for the year 1785, as follows, viz. town taxes 6s. 8d. minister's settlement taxes, 2s. 6d. minister's salary taxes, 2s. 1d. Unless said taxes are paid to me on or before the 24th day of February inst. at 2 o'clock, P. M., I shall proceed to sell so much of said land as will pay the above rates and intervening charges, at publick vendue, at the house of John Quinten's in Ware, per me,

Erwin Shaw, Collector for 1785.

Ware, Jan. 3, 1789.

33. This lot was in the possession of one Overill in 1806.

34. 63 a. bought by Ebenezer Davis of John Merritt in 1761. Davis was a tenant before purchasing.

35. Occupied by Jacob Lazell in 1805.

36. This lot was the subject of the law-suit of the Read heirs *vs.* James Nivins, finally in 1769 decided in favor of the plaintiff. It was the test case, carried to the supreme court. The records of this case gave us many valuable papers concerning the Manour. Merritt's executor, John Overing, in 1772 sells this tract of 72 acres to Daniel Harris of Springfield. It is described in the deed as the tract that Merritt recovered from James Nevins in an action of Merritt *vs.* Nevins; being "part of the grant or farm of 500 acres on which James Nivins lives that lies south of s<sup>d</sup> north line of s<sup>d</sup> Ware."

37. There was litigation similar to the above over this tract, the case being Read *vs.* Moulton. Robert Moulton had acquired a farm in the same manner as Nivins, ignorant of the fact that it encroached upon the Read Manour. Moulton refused to pay taxes in Ware, thus precipitating a suit with the town, — the first of which there is record. In 1760 the parish voted £2 "to go to law with Moulton." In 1761 Samuel Sherman and William Breakenridge were

appointed a committee "to finish the suit with Moulton." Moulton, losing the Read suit, appears to have settled the parish claim out of court. In 1772 John Overing sold the tract of 103 acres to Robert Morton, — undoubtedly Moulton with a different spelling.

38. David Pulsifer bought in 1761 "the farm on which he now lives" of 136 acres, bounded easterly by the road. Pulsifer being unable to pay for it "and the bargain being void," Merritt's executor sells the same to James Lawton in 1773.

39. An irregular tract of 139 acres east of the road. No deed has been found but a mortgage of Edmund Capen to John Overing dated 1772. Enos Allen was in possession of the lower corner near the Dividing Line in 1755.

40. 152 a. John Harwood bought of Merritt in 1761. Harwood was living on the land at the time of purchase.

41. 100 a. James Lammon bought of Merritt in 1762. It was known as "the Edmund Taylor Lot."

42. 50 a. John Harwood bought of Merritt in 1761.

43. 119 a. William Blackmer, Jr., bought of Merritt in 1762. Part had previously been occupied by Thomas Crowfoot. In 1767 "Joseph Marsh's house" stood just north of Patrick's east line.

44. 70 a. Cornelius Weeks bought of Merritt in 1762, "it being the lot on which Thomas Crowfoot did live."

45. No deed found. Described by abutters as "Joseph Patterson's possession."

46. 87 a. William Blackmer, Jr., bought of Merritt's executor in 1773.

47. 100 a. bought by Jonathan Foster in 1762.

48. 100 a. James Brown bought of Merritt in 1769. The lot was previously occupied by Elijah Cummings.

In tracing the lots of Abigail Miller's division it seems best to follow the numbering given on the plan found in the Probate Records of the County of Suffolk. The plan was made after the death of Mrs. Miller, and bears the date October, 1769. The heirs are Mrs. Miller's sons and sons-in-law. The lots sold previous to Mrs. Miller's death are not numbered in the plan.

No. 1. 100 a. This was for many years known as the Olds Lot. The first of this name that we find in Ware was



Jonathan Olds. In 1761 his daughter, Comfort Olds of Ware, constitutes Joseph Patterson of Palmer her attorney for the settlement of her father's estate. Olds never owned this lot, though he undoubtedly lived on it. It descended to William Sheppard and his wife Deborah, who in 1770 sold Lot No. 1, one half of No. 3, and No. 4, — 250 acres in all, to Benjamin Lincoln of Hingham. Lincoln sold No. 1 to Isaac Cummings in 1771.

No. 2. 140 a. Descended to William Miller. In 1771 he sold 120 acres, consisting of the east half of No. 2 and No. 3 to William Breakenridge. The west half of No. 2 went to Jacob Hickson, blacksmith. The west half of No. 3 went to George Breakenridge in 1784.

William Breakenridge, who was a prominent man here for more than thirty years, one of the first board of selectmen, the first representative to the Provincial Congress, and town clerk for eighteen years, came to this country from Ireland in 1727, when four years of age, with his father, James Breakenridge, a native of Scotland. The name has reference to the peculiar features of that country, its hill ridges covered with bracken or fern. The family settled in the Elbow Tract, near Palmer Centre. William and James, sons of James, Sen., acquired farms in Ware. The rest of the family remained in the southern division. The Breakenridges were among the largest land-owners of the town.<sup>1</sup>

No. 4. Lincoln sells 50 acres of No. 4, and 20 acres at the north end of No. 3 to Simeon Cummings in 1772.

Joseph Miller received from his mother Nos. 5, 16, 19, 20, 21 and 23. William Miller, William Sheppard and Robert Pierpont get executions against Joseph in 1771, and his land is all sold. Nos. 5, 16, 19, and the north part of No. 20 go to Rev. Ezra Thayer and Joseph Foster "in equal moieties" in 1772. The north-east corner of No. 5, containing 50 acres, was sold to Daniel Brown of Western in 1769.

No. 6. 116 a. William Miller sold to Thomas Patrick of Western in 1770.

No. 7. Abner Hunt in 1772 sold the north part, 58 acres, to William Breakenridge.

No. 8. The northern half, 50 acres, was sold by Hezekiah Read Miller to Ezra Pepper of New Braintree in 1771. The

<sup>1</sup> Hyde's "Historical Address," and Temple's "History of Palmer."

southern half of No. 8 and the northern half of No. 9, 100 acres, were sold by Miller to William Anderson in 1770. The west end of the lot is described as being "on the east side of Long Hill so called."

Twenty-three acres of No. 8, lying just north of Anderson's, passed through the hands of Joshua Nichols of Easthampton, and in 1795 was purchased by Thomas Snell, famous for the manufacture of augers. This was Snell's earliest recorded purchase of land in Ware. William Snell, who at this time owned land on Ware River in the north-east part of the town, was not of the same family.

No. 9. A 33 acre tract south of Anderson's was sold to Capt. Jacob Cummings in 1769. The remainder of this lot, 13 acres, went to Ezra Thayer in 1769. The description begins "four and one half rods west of the northernmost part of the Pound." The tract is half a mile long running east and west, and 14 rods wide. Exception is made of highways and "the meeting-house plot and burying place which are partly within the Above named boundaries." The entire exception amounts to but one acre.

No. 10. 140 a. Nathaniel Vose sold to James McClintock in 1778. It is bounded south on the Ministerial Lot, the Glebe of 1767.

No. 11. The north part, 35 acres, was sold by Vose to William Cutter or Cutler [both spellings given] in 1772. By 1778 this part had come to Capt. William Breakenridge, and Submit Cutter occupies part of No. 9. The remainder of No. 11, 70 acres, was bought by James McClintock in 1778.

No. 12. 75 a. John Miller sold to William Breakenridge in 1773.

No. 13. Probably bought by Thomas Patrick. Patrick's first purchase was from Abigail Miller in 1767, about 140 acres, extending north-west and south-east, the lower corner just crossing Flat Brook.

No. 14. 81 a. Thomas Patrick bought of John Miller in 1771. In 1768 Patrick had purchased of Mrs. Miller 60 acres south of No. 14, described as "part of the tract known as the Long Swamp." South of this is a lot of 40 acres, part of the "Long Swamp," which Mrs. Miller sold to David Reed, mason, in 1764. Before 1769 it had gone into the possession of James Capen. The small parcels farther south, one of 17, the other of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres, were bought by Ezra Thayer, whose homestead adjoined. This homestead lot

of Ezra Thayer was the original Glebe of 1748, the history of which has been given. At the east end John Read expected the meeting-house to stand. After Ezra Thayer's death this farm was bought by William Paige who came from Hardwick in 1777. He became prominent in both parish and town, and held many offices; was Deacon of the First Church from 1789 to 1826. He was a prominent inn-keeper for many years.

No. 15. Abner Hunt sold to Joseph Foster, blacksmith, in 1771.

No. 16. Ezra Thayer and Joseph Foster bought in 1772. This lot was known as the Irish Meadow.

No. 17. John Miller sold to Ezra Thayer in 1773.

No. 18. 80 a. H. R. Miller sold to Thomas Patrick Jr. in 1779.

Nos. 19 and 20. 100 a. each. Ezra Thayer and Joseph Foster bought in 1772. No. 20 is described at this time as running west "into the mill pond."

Nos. 21 and 23. Execution in favor of William Miller and William Sheppard in 1771. Seth Shaw bought the southern half of No. 23 in 1806, and the whole lot later became part of the Gould farm.

No. 22. 105 a. Vose sold to Ezra Thayer in 1773.

Charles and Mary Morris, the latter a daughter of John Read, inherited the south-east section of the Manour, 2,501 acres. In 1732, when only 16 years of age, Mary Read married Charles Morris, of Boston, a man of excellent education and an expert surveyor. In 1745 Morris took part in the expedition against Louisburg, and after the surrender of that fortress remained in Nova Scotia where he was employed as surveyor, becoming surveyor-general of the province in 1749. He was made a member of the privy council in 1755, and eventually became Chief Justice of Nova Scotia.<sup>1</sup> He died in 1781. Living thus at a distance, the sale of the Morris land was placed in the hands of an agent, Thomas Legate, of Leominster, who also sold for others of the Read heirs.

The problem of the first settlers on this division has been extremely difficult, for several reasons. In the early days lots were sold or leased by the plan of the Manour as a

<sup>1</sup> From a sketch by Chas. J. McIntire.



whole, but in November, 1780, a new plan of the Morris Division was made by Nathaniel and Justice Dwight, surveyors. No copy of the plan has been found, and to reconstruct it from the scanty materials at hand has not been possible. A chief difficulty has been with the "south end lots," the lines of which are extremely irregular, the river, as a natural boundary, and the highways as well, often being substituted for straight lines such as have guided us in other parts of the Manour. Many lots are described as regular in shape, 160 by 100 rods; but some run north and south, others east and west. A second difficulty lies in the fact that much of the Morris land was the object of speculation, changing ownership half a dozen times before occupied by the owner, while at the same time it had been settled and held as rented or leased property for many years. In selling a lot an abutter is sometimes named who lived upon the land without owning it, and who is named upon another portion of the tract a few years later. Furthermore, deeds of land within this tract seem even more vague than was usual at that period.

49. 60 a. Sold by Legate to Lot Dean in 1797. This was the north half of the Downing lot. In 1812 John Gore of Boston sells the same to Jesse Lewis.

50.  $60\frac{1}{4}$  a. Sold by Legate as agent to John Downing in 1781. Downing had occupied the entire lot for nearly 30 years. He came to Ware from Springfield in 1752. On this lot stood the famous Downing Tavern. Downing also owned land outside the Manour in the meadows south-east of this lot.

51. The half-lot of 50 acres given in 1762 by the Read heirs to Rev. Ezra Thayer as a "settlement." Three and one half acres in the north-west corner were reserved for the meeting-house and burial place. Ezra sold this lot to Solomon Cummings in 1765 for £42, but Cummings probably never lived upon it. It later became part of the estate of Ebenezer Nye, the famous inn-holder at the Centre.

52. The half lot of 50 acres given by the Read heirs to Grindall Rawson in 1751 as an inducement to settle in the ministry of the parish. Rawson sold to Thomas Andrews in 1759.

53. 100 a. Sold by Legate to Ebenezer Gould in 1782. It was then known as the Ayers lot.

54. The Glebe, or Ministry Lot of 1767, the history of which has been told. At a much later date part was owned by Dr. Rufus King who came from Brookfield in 1789. His home, no longer standing, was north of the road, where Mr. Quirk's house now stands. Part of the lot was owned by Rev. Reuben Moss. His house stands on the opposite side of the road from the meeting-house a little further west, and is now occupied by Edmund E. Moore.

55. 52 a. Sold to Isaac Pepper in 1793.

56. Described as 100 acres, though the dimensions indicate about 120. Sold by Legate to William Paige, Jr., in 1805. At this time the abutters on the east are Dr. Rufus King, Reuben Moss and Enos Davis.

57. 43 a. Dr. Rufus King bought in 1806, it being "part of the lot that Lt. John Hamilton now lives on." The north-east corner above the road,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  acres, had been sold to Ezra Thayer, whose homestead adjoined, in 1771.

58. 200 a. Daniel Gould bought the lower half in 1775. This was known as the Paddock Lot. The northern half he bought in 1799.

59. 100 a. Legate sold to his son in 1805, and Legate, Jr., to Samuel Brown in the same year. The lot was previously in possession of Benjamin McMichel. Brown did not live here, but according to tradition raised great crops of rye on the land.

60. 100 a. William Bowdoin and Aaron Andrews bought this lot of Legate in 1807. It became the Bowdoin homestead, and William Bowdoin lived here until his death. William Bowdoin was the founder of one of the important families of the town. He was brought here in infancy about 1762. "He is supposed <sup>1</sup> to have been a natural son of a brother of Gov. Bowdoin, whose name he bore. He was raised in the family of Samuel Bush, near Marsh's mills, received his education in the common schools, and having a taste for reading, and a tact for business, he acquired a character and influence no other man ever gained in this town. He was chosen town clerk in 1789, and held the office for twenty-two years in succession. He was again elected in 1830, and held office until his death, Sept. 23, 1831. He represented the town eleven years in the Legis-

<sup>1</sup> Hyde's "Historical Address."

lature, being the only one chosen from 1795 to 1812, and was a delegate to the Convention for revising the Constitution in 1820. In 1801, he was elected a Justice of the Peace, and did most of the business of that nature, in this town, for nearly thirty years. He wrote a very plain, legible hand, and the perfect state of the Town Records is owing very much to his care. He transcribed the records of the births, deaths and marriages, by vote of the town, in 1789, which are very complete of some of the earlier families. He was twice married, and had fourteen children." The farm on which he made his home had been known as the Stamping Lot.

61-66. These lots were bought and sold many times by land speculators, the boundaries changing with every sale. Parts were sold more than once by the same man, the conditions of the sale evidently not having been met by the purchaser.

61. Bought by Jesse Lewis of Legate, Jr., in 1805.

62. 100 a. In 1781 Charles and Mary Morris by their attorney sold this lot to Thomas McClintock and Thomas McClintock, Jr., and it became known as the McClintock lot. It returned however to its original owners, and Legate the agent sold to John Hamilton in 1800, Hamilton to Richard Lewis in 1801, Lewis to Prince Andrews in 1807, Andrews to Jesse Lewis, and finally it became part of the John Bowdoin farm now occupied by Henry B. Anderson.

63. Owned at an early date by Richard Lewis. The history of the lot is similar to that of 62.

64. 75 a. Legate sold to Joshua Crowell of Brookfield in 1792. Later it came into the possession of Enos Davis, now the Gould farm west of the village.

65. The original sales are difficult to trace. Was in part the Pepper farm, Esther Pepper owning it in 1807.

66. 100 a. Legate sold to John Hamilton in 1800. The lot was previously occupied by Ephraim Paddock. Hamilton sold to Jesse Lewis in 1801.

The long, narrow strip south of 65 and 66, and south of the river, consisting of 39 acres, was sold to Isaac Magoon in 1771. It is described as "Being part of the lot originally leased by John Read to the s<sup>d</sup> Isaac's Grandfather, Mr. Isaac Magoon."

67. 100 a. Legate sold to Prince and Aaron Andrews in 1807. Amariah Crain lived on part of this lot. He afterwards moved to the east part of the town.



68. The site of the historic Rogers inn. Jonathan Rogers bought of Charles and Mary Morris in 1770, having previously occupied the land. The upper half he gave to his son, Thomas Rogers. The lower half he left by will to his daughters and his son Jonathan, who carried on the business after their father's death, which occurred in 1784.

69. 100 a. The south portion, 60 acres, went to Joel Stacey in 1803. The northern part, 40 acres, went to Elijah Winslow at the same date.

70. Described in 1806 as belonging to James Lamberton and Seth and Solomon Brown.

71. 83 a. In shape like the letter K. Legate, Jr., sold to Robert Smith of Palmer in 1806. Smith made his home on the lot.

72. 100 a. Legate sold to Daniel Shaw in 1771. In 1790, Erwin Shaw, a brother of Daniel, sells this lot together with the adjoining half of 69, to James and Seth Lamberton. It has remained in the Lamberton family to the present time.

73. 100 a. Legate sold to Richard Roggers in 1771.

74. 29 a. Legate, Jr., sold to Levi Stevens of Palmer in 1806. Stevens previously occupied the land.

75. 40 a. Timothy Paige of Hardwick bought in 1771. This with part of 67 went to John Shaw, 2nd, in 1806. The gore to the westward was sold to Aaron Andrews in 1805.

The original grantees of the Marsh Tract settled among themselves the division of the land. The lines of these divisions can be only approximately determined. The whole tract in the earliest times was described as "a place called Muddy Brook, between Hardwick and Kingston."

A. This section of 206 acres was set off to Jonathan Rood "for his share of the original grant." Rood in 1741 sold 20 acres in the south-west corner to Paul Thurston of Rutland. The remainder of the tract he had sold in 1740 to Jonathan Hunt of Northampton. Rood appears to have lived on the land for a time. On the same day that Rood sold the 20 acres to Thurston, Hunt sells his 186 acres to Thurston. In 1745 Thurston sells the whole, 206 acres, to Edward Damon of Brookfield, "Physitian." Dr. Damon was undoubtedly the first physician to settle in town. He is believed to have come from Reading, Conn., to Brook-

field, and soon after to Ware. The births of his children begin in the Ware records in 1735.

B. A section of about 200 acres, John Clemmons's share of the grant. In 1741 he sold the tract to Joseph Simons, cordwainer, who came here from Killingly, Conn. Simons and his descendants lived on the tract many years. The land extending south from John Clemmons to Kingston, and lying between Dr. Damon and Muddy Brook belonged in 1745 part to William Clemmons, and part to Thomas Marsh, as we learn from the abutters named in Dr. Damon's deed.

C. 71 a. We find Benjamin Simons of Fort Massachusetts selling this lot to Maverick Smith of Reading in 1758. Col. Benjamin was a son of Joseph Simons, and was one of the garrison of Fort Massachusetts [Williamstown]. The land at this time is bounded easterly by Muddy Brook and Capt. Joseph How's land, north and south by How's land, west on Dr. Damon. Joseph Simons had given the tract to his son Benjamin in 1748.

D. John How in 1764 sells 18 acres "the north part of the lot now in possession of Nehemiah Thomas" to Maverick Smith. Thomas owned or occupied the remainder. This appears to have been part of Thomas Marsh's original division.

Thomas Marsh, so far as documentary evidence shows the situation, was the first settler on any portion of the Town of Ware. He was here before 1727, for in that year he pledges his house, barn, crops of corn, flax, buckwheat, etc., to Stephen Griffeths of Lambstown and John Buttler of Stonington, Connecticut, as surety that Ruth Marsh his daughter shall make her personal appearance at Springfield, "and abides the order and sentence of s<sup>d</sup> Court, upon a complaint of Mary Clemons dwelling on y<sup>e</sup> Country Land afores<sup>d</sup>."

Thomas was probably one of five brothers who settled on the land, — Thomas, Ephraim, Judah, Samuel and Joseph. Whether all came at the same time or not cannot be determined. Mr. Hyde says that Judah came from Hatfield, or Hadley, in 1730. Thomas made his will in 1742, in which he describes himself as "living at a place called Muddy Brook." He signed the will with his own hand. In it he mentions by

name nine children, five sons and four daughters. One son is described as "distracted." He left all his real estate to his son Joseph.

E. 60 a. Part of Thomas's original tract. Sold in 1767 by Joseph Marsh, son of Thomas, to Maverick Smith.

F. 75 a. The north part of Thomas's original tract. Sold by Joseph to Judah, on whose land it bordered, in 1767. Forty years later this was owned by Jonathan Marsh, a son of Judah.

G. Judah Marsh's Mill-lot, and part of his original grant. It descended to his son Judah, who died in 1817, leaving about 70 acres with mills, buildings, etc.

H. 100 a. Part of Judah Marsh's grant. Thomas, son of Judah, sold to Ephraim McIntier of Greenwich in 1806.

I. Part of Judah's grant. Owned or occupied by Benjamin Raymond in 1775.

J. 50 a. Sold by Judah Marsh to John Raymond in 1775.

K. 120 a. Part of Samuel Marsh's original grant, and sold by him to Jeremiah Anderson in 1739. Jeremiah, the founder of the Anderson family in Ware, was a native of Ireland. He had a large family of eleven children. The Anderson and Snell families furnished musicians to the town for generations.

L. 20 a. Samuel Marsh sold to Thomas Dunsmore in 1739.

M. In this section there was a 100 acre lot belonging originally to Ephraim Marsh, also a tract, probably 100 acres, belonging originally to Joseph.

Thus the original possessions of the five Marsh brothers are accounted for. A few acres of this section [M] belonged to Judah, and the eastern part to Samuel. One hundred and fifteen acres of this section came into the possession of Caleb Wetherbee of Southborough, being parts of the original grants of Joseph, Ephraim and Judah. Wetherbee in 1754 sold the western half of his possession to Joseph Ruggles of Hardwick, and Ruggles in 1766 sells the same again to Judah Marsh.

The remaining portion of the Town of Ware was actually a part of Kingston, and with the exception of the Hollingsworth Grant, the land belonged to the Elbow Proprietors.



Mr. Gilbert, in his "Early Grants," has worked out from the Proprietors' Records the location of the several owners on this section which was known as "the north-end addition," and his lines are followed in making the map for this work.

A few matters may require a word of explanation.

Jeremiah Omstead was the oldest son of Jabez. He took up land adjoining his father's farm, probably in 1729 or 30. The farm was confirmed to him by action of the General Court in 1733. The rest of the north-end addition was divided among the Elbow Proprietors by drawings held from time to time. Many of the drawings were sold, as the Proprietors already had their homes in the southern part of the plantation.

Jeremiah Omstead sold his farm of 100 acres to Noah Colton in 1738. Colton in 1740 sold the same to John Post, who in 1744 sold to Alexander Mack Neill. Jabez Omstead in 1733 sells 74 acres at the south-west corner of his farm to Obadiah Wood. In 1752 he sells 15 acres north of the above to John Downing. In the same year, 1752, Downing bought of Timothy Brown 36 acres lying between Omstead's farm and the Manour. In 1743 Jabez, "in consideration of the tender respect I bear unto my loving son Israel Omstead," gives him  $94\frac{1}{2}$  acres on the east side of the river, "beginning at the end of the bridge below the mill." In 1746 Jabez likewise gives to his "loving son Israel Omstead" 144 acres, it being the north-east corner of the 500 acre tract. The remainder of the farm was sold by Omstead's heirs to Isaac Magoon, from whom it passed to his son Alexander in 1765, and the mills were known for more than a generation as the Magoon Mills. The property passed to Alpheus Demond, Esq., and Col. Thomas Denny in 1813.

It has been already stated that the Elbow Proprietors donated to the Hon. Ebenezer Burrill, Samuel Bradford and John Alden 100 acres each for their services as agents of the General Court in 1733. Bradford's tract was surveyed by Steward Southgate in January, 1739-40 "in the nor west corner of the north end addition, Butting west on the line of Mr. Read's Land 72 rods and three fourths and bounding north on the end line of the Elbow Tract 220 rods." The

south-east corner is said to be "on Ross's Plain about 20 Rod southward from Ross's Den," whatever that may be. Burrill received a lozenge-shaped lot lying "on each side of Muddy Brook."

No record of sale of either of these lots has been found, and in a later drawing of common lands, they would appear to have fallen to John Kilburn.

John Alden of Duxborough, however, in 1737 sells to Robert Stanford 150 acres, "part of the 300 acres of land granted to Ebenezer Burrell Esq<sup>r</sup> Mr. Samuel Bradford and myself at a meeting of y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of y<sup>e</sup> Common and Undivided Lands in ye s<sup>d</sup> Elbow Tract, upon y<sup>e</sup> second Day of June, 1735." It is worth noting that this deed was drawn nearly two years before the lands of Burrill and Bradford were surveyed. Stanford in 1739 sells the same to John Robinson, clerk, of Duxborough, and in 1753 John Robinson, son of Rev. John Robinson, quit-claims to Ichabod Robinson, his brother, "his interest in a tract in the Township of Kingston in the County of Hampshire." Here the whole thing vanishes.

Robert Rogers of Kingston in 1746 sells the 50 acres lying east of the Manour to William Breakenridge. It is described as lying in "Way River Parish."

The Steward Southgate lot at the south-east corner of the Manour was sold to Jacob Cummings in 1740. Southgate had probably the best education of any man of his time in the plantation, being a graduate of Harvard College. Besides being a skilled surveyor, he was for years Proprietor's Clerk of the Elbow Tract.

Jacob Cummings, the founder of the Cummings family in Ware, came from Killingly, Connecticut. He was for years one of the most prominent men of the Precinct. He was one of the first deacons of the church, was moderator of the first meeting of the parish, one of the committee of the Precinct when the town was incorporated in 1762, one of the first board of selectmen, and town treasurer. He had five sons, all of whom were prominent in the affairs of the town.

Phille Morse came from Sharon soon after the town was incorporated. His farm extended from the river opposite

the East Street bridge up the slopes of Coy's Hill, including the John Blackmer drawing of 1746.

Besides the larger grants and drawings there were scattered through the town numbers of small remnants of land that failed of being included in the larger surveys. These were still the property of the old Proprietors, and were laid out to different persons by the Selectmen of Palmer as late as 1812. The following is one of the latest:

Nov. 25, 1812,

Surveyed and laid out to Calvin Morse one acre and one hundred rods of the common and undivided lands of the Proprietors of Palmer on the right originally granted to James McIlwain,

Boundaries follow, showing that the land was on the river bank adjoining Morse's farm, "on the north side of the road leading from Ware to Brookfield."

Other small parcels are described as part of the undivided lands, or a portion of some man's "original right" which had been allowed to lapse. Indebtedness for services rendered the Town of Palmer were sometimes paid by a grant, — sure to create confusion at a later time. For example,

Palmer, September y<sup>e</sup> 2, 1794.

Sold to Thomas Quinten as much land at 6 s. p<sup>r</sup> acor as to pay £2., 5s.

## SUMMARY

Earliest Recorded Survey . . . . .	1714
Earliest Settlement (about) . . . . .	1725
Ware a Parish and Precinct . . . . .	Dec. 7, 1742
Incorporated as a District . . . . .	Nov. 28, 1761
A Town, with Right of Representation in General Court . . . . .	Aug. 23, 1775



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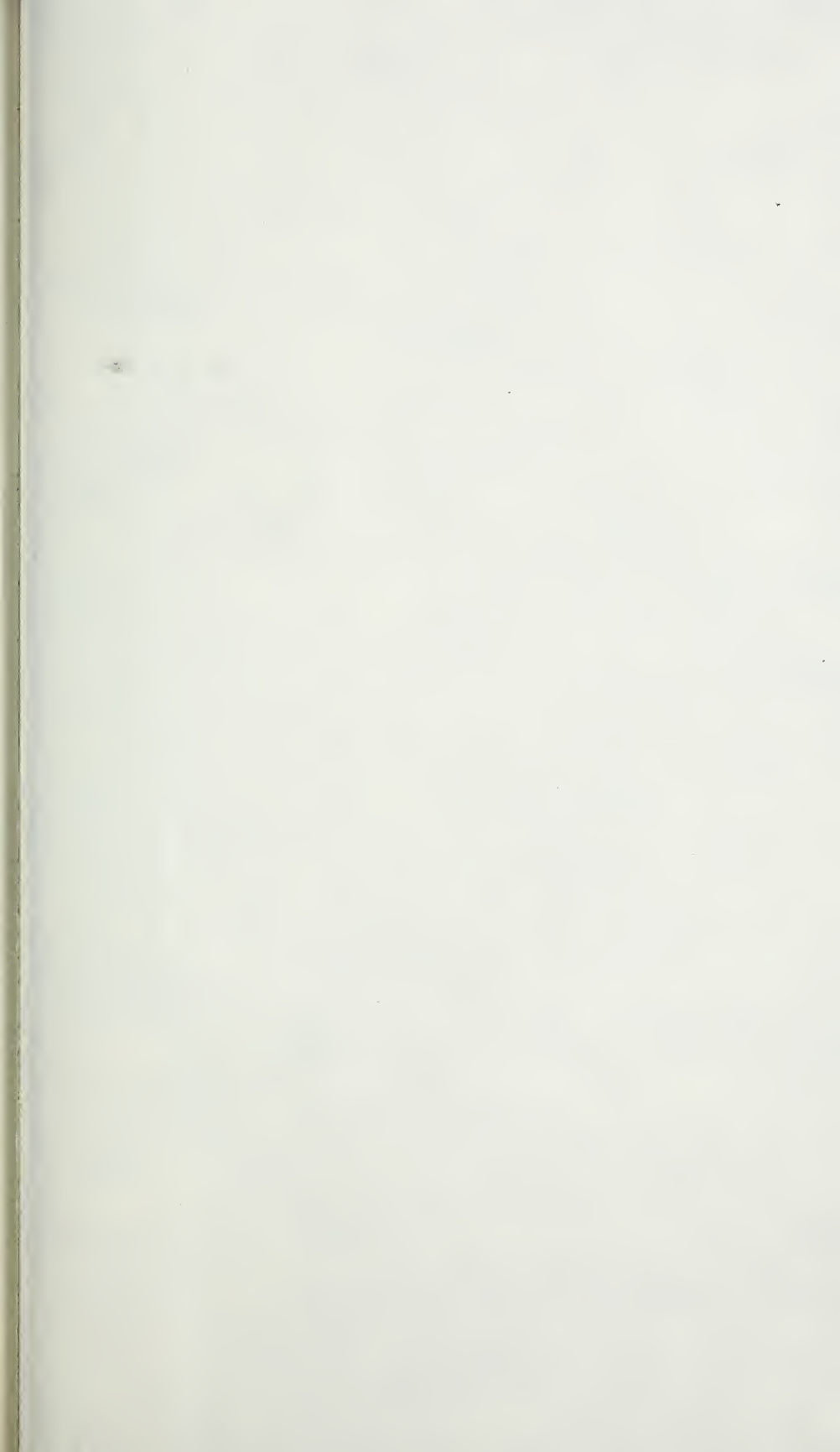
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